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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 64 | WEDNESDAY MARCH 17, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
How would you describe your level of understanding of federalization as it applies to labor in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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NMC paying for 2 presidents

Board chair OK'd release of Cabrera's retro pay

Fernandez

Cabrera

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College has been paying for two presidents since January, soon after the Board of Regents suspended Dr. Carmen Fernandez on Jan. 12.

Documents obtained by the *Saipan Tribune* show that the board, through chair Janet Han King, approved the additional compensation for interim president Lorraine Cabrera, retroactive to the date when she was appointed to the position.

Earlier *Saipan Tribune* reports had quoted NMC officials as saying that Cabrera's salary adjustment was still being discussed and that the board has not acted on the issue yet.

However, in a memorandum to NMC chief financial administrative officer Henry S. Hofschneider dated Feb. 22, King approved the request to compen-

See NMC on Page 4

'LUCK OF THE IRISH' HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Capital Hill's famous tree trunk is decorated in time for St. Patrick's Day today. The day is celebrated by the Irish and the Irish at heart in big cities and small towns with parades, "wearing of the greens," music and songs. On Saipan, it is mostly about hitting the bars and restaurants for special St. Patrick's drinks and menu.

$17.9K discretionary funds change hands among lawmakers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lawmakers, most of them voted out of office or did not seek re-election in November, got up to $17,900 in transferred discretionary funds from their colleagues in October to December, Office of Management and Budget documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show.

House of Representatives and Senate members in the 16th Legislature borrowed anywhere between $165 and $4,670 in single reprogramming, mostly to cover a shortfall in their quarterly discretionary fund allotments.

Lawmakers and government agencies are required by law to report reprogramming of funds every quarter.

The quarterly discretionary fund al-

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Obama not visiting CNMI, only Guam

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

President Barack Obama will be in Guam on March 22 and 23 en route to Indonesia and Australia, White House officials said during a news briefing Monday on the president's trip to the Asia-Pacific region.

But White House officials did not mention a presidential stopover on Saipan, as requested by the CNMI Senate and House of Representatives in separate resolutions adopted in February.

Nevertheless, CNMI Public School

See OBAMA on Page 4

FEDS, LOCAL GOVT URGED

Resolve conflict on umbrella permits, other labor issues

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed urged the CNMI government and federal agencies yesterday to sit down and resolve conflicting issues on umbrella permits and other labor rules.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Syed said the conflicting views of federal agencies and the CNMI government is not good for the economy as it only creates further confusion for businesses

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Local

CHC works to boost follow-up hearing exams

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

About 99 percent of babies born at the Commonwealth Health Center undergo hearing-loss screening before being discharged but a significant number that require follow-up screenings do not get it, according to CHC audiologist Elizabeth Seeliger DHS.

While hearing-loss screening is now considered routine for all newborns, Seelinger said the next challenge is ensuring that infants that need follow-up screening get it.

In the last two years, she said, the CNMI Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program has approached this issue in different ways.

"Parents are surveyed and queried to determine the barriers to follow-up so that the EHDI Program could focus on eliminating them," she said.

Mothers are given informative brochures that include the date and time for their baby's follow-up appointment. CHC also offers phone calls to remind families of their follow-up appointment. Since contact information can change, hearing screening results are included on the infant's immunization card to inform the baby's other medical providers about the need for follow-up, and thus help that family receive a second screening.

Gas vouchers have also recently been granted to families who attend the scheduled follow-up appointment, Seelinger said.

The CNMI EHDI Program has also developed a multimedia plan that includes television and radio spots, print ads in the newspaper and magazines, and a new brochure for expectant mothers, provided during their prenatal visits.

"Survey data from parents of children with special health care needs indicate that the public awareness campaign is working. Eighty percent of parents surveyed knew that CHC screens babies for hearing loss before discharge," she said.

"The EHDI Program is confident that these strategies will help to further increase the number of families who receive care in the CNMI. An infant is never too young to test," she added.

Standard of care

Newborn hearing screening has been implemented as a "standard of care" policy and provided to all infants born at CHC since 2002. Babies are not discharged from the CHC nursery until they undergo a hearing screening. The infants that do not pass the initial screening must then return for a follow-up screening. If again they do not pass, the audiologist performs a diagnostic hearing screen.

"If a hearing loss is diagnosed the infant is referred to the Public School System's Early Intervention Services Program. Infants found with any permanent hearing loss are automatically eligible for these essential intervention services," Seeliger said.

CHC consistently screens 99 percent of all newborns before hospital discharge every year. "The few babies that do not get a hearing screen are most often infants that are transferred off island with more serious medical conditions. In a few rare cases babies are not screened because the family refused the hearing screening," said Seeliger.

Increased rate

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality weekly report, the national percent of babies screened for hearing loss has increased over the last decade from 46.5 percent to more than 97 percent.

The newborn hearing program is part of a federally funded initiative called the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program. All states and U.S. territories have established

See CHC on next page

Mobil follows Shell's 10-cent gas hike

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Mobil Oil Marianas increased yesterday morning the pump prices of its gasoline products by 10 cents a gallon, reflecting the same price hike imposed by Shell Marianas on Sunday even as crude oil prices fell Monday to below $80 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

This is the second round of gas price hikes on Saipan this year, totaling 20 cents a gallon.

Regular, self-serve gasoline at Mobil and Shell service stations now costs $3.779 a gallon following the 10-cent price increase. Self-serve gasoline prices are the ones displayed at service stations.

Regular, full-serve gasoline is now $3.909 a gallon at Mobil and Shell service stations.

A gallon of premium, self-serve gasoline at Mobil stations is now $4.079. Shell's price for the same product is $4.099 a gallon.

Full-serve premium gasoline at Mobil stations is $4.199 a gallon, and $4.299 a gallon at Shell stations.

Diesel is now $3.949 a gallon at Mobil and Shell stations after the 10-cent increase.

Since February 2009, Saipan motorists have seen nine rounds of pump price increases. This means that for the 13-month period, motorists have paid an additional $1.05 for every gallon of gas they put in their tanks.

Shell and Mobil also do not issue advance notice of price increases. Saipan motorists know about such price changes by the price displays at gasoline service stations.

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'DCCA key to make full-day Head Start sessions happen'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

In addition to the Kindergarten program, the Public School System is looking at offering full-day services for its Head Start sessions, according to Head Start program director Keiko Yamagata.

"PSS needs to tap the assistance of the child care program of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to make it happen," Yamagata said during Friday's special meeting of the Board of Education.

She said many Head Start programs in the nation have partnered with their child care programs in order to determine funding for full-day services.

However, Yamagata said, "in the CNMI this doesn't mean that all 462 authorized enrollees will be converted to full-days. We're going to look at our data. We need to know how many parents need the full-day services for their kids."

DCCA's child care program receives annual federal funding.

Yamagata admitted that the full-day sessions would require more funding, personnel, facilities, and rigorous planning.

However, since last month's negotiations between PSS and DCCA have progressed favorably, Yamagata is optimistic about the plan's future implementation.

"The number of children who will be placed on full-day sessions depends on their parents. A child can be in full-day sessions because the parents are full-time employees or students. But that's not the case seven months later so we can refer the child back to half-day sessions," she said.

Yamagata said that partnership with the DCCA's child care program is vital. A portion of the federal funding from the child care program can be used either in hiring additional manpower for Head Start expansion or building additional facilities.

Families categorized in the low-income bracket are eligible for both the Head Start and child care programs.

'Regional office sees the need'

Because of the constant growth in the number of children and families on Head Start's waiting list, its regional office supports full-day services in the CNMI.

"It would be a local effort [the proposal]…but the regional office sees the need for full-day services because nationwide, that's where they are heading. They want to extend that effort in the CNMI and want us to start the planning and communication for how this may work physically and programmatically here," said Yamagata.

It is believed that full-day services would push parents to go back to full-time employment or studies.

Yamagata said the initial meeting with DCCA to discuss the proposal was positive.

"The communication with DCCA is ongoing…and the department was very receptive of the idea. They want to continue conversations with us," she said.

The Head Start program received federal funding of $1.7 million for its 462 enrollees. Due to the increasing number of children on the wait list, PSS proposed expanding enrollment for 32 more children next school year.

To date, over 120 children are on the program's wait list.

DEQ red-flags 3 sites on Saipan

The Division of Environment Quality has raised the red flag on three location on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ red-flagged Grotto Cave, Ladder Beach, and Unai Dangkulo after samples from the locations were found to contain excessive concentrations of enterococci, a fecal indicator bacteria. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzed samples taken from 12 east and south recreational beaches on Saipan. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(PR)***

CHC

From Page 2

an EHDI program with a common goal of identifying all babies born with hearing loss by 3 months of age. Before, babies were not being discovered with hearing loss until they were 2 or 3 years old. By this time a child may develop speech and/or language difficulties.

Hearing loss affects two to three infants out of every 1,000 live births. If you have concerns about your child's hearing, call the Newborn Hearing Screening Program at (670)-236-8709.

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Senators ask NMC: Why has Fernandez's suspension dragged on?

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senators took turns yesterday asking Northern Marianas College officials on its efforts to keep its accreditation, add more programs to the Rota and Tinian campuses, and the reasons why the Board of Regents has taken so long to decide on the fate of suspended NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

The NMC Board of Regents suspended Fernandez in January, but she continues to receive her salary of $80,000 a year and $800 monthly housing benefits.

"Why is it taking a long time to resolve or make a decision on Fernandez's suspension? This issue has dragged on," Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) asked NMC Board of Regents chair Janet H. King, NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera, and NMC accreditation liaison officer Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

Senators also asked whether a team from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, which will visit NMC soon, have raised additional concerns about NMC, especially as it relates to the suspension of the college president.

WASC reaffirmed NMC's accreditation in June 2009. The college submitted its midterm report in October.

Although it accepted the midterm report, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges-WASC had said that the series of events at the college may still affect NMC's accreditation status, alluding to Fernandez's suspension.

Deleon Guerrero told senators that WASC's Jan. 29 letter to NMC did not specifically cite the president's suspension, but only cited eligibility requirements and standards.

"Our best guess is that they want to get past what they're reading in the media. I don't think they'll be here for the investigation [of Fernandez]," he told senators.

Manglona asked whether NMC has been getting the cooperation of the Office of the Attorney General in investigating Fernandez.

King told senators that Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham transmitted to the Board of Regents on Monday over 20 pages of documents detailing the results of the OAG investigation into Fernandez.

Among other things, Fernandez has been alleged to have ordered the changing of students' grades for them to continue receiving scholarships. The results were not made public.

"When are you going to get past this issue, so we know who the NMC president will be? Why do we keep on paying her salary? When is this going to end? By end of April, will this issue be behind us?" Manglona asked.

Despite the receipt of the OAG's investigation results, the Board of Regents held off making a decision on Fernandez until after it gets the results of its own investigation on the issue.

King said Fernandez has retained her own counsel. She said the legal sufficiency of Fernandez's contract is not the issue, but compliance with the terms of the contract.

Manglona said Fernandez's suspension has become a major "legal battle." But King said this is not the case, although she said when lawyers get involved, that's the time it becomes adversarial.

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) asked why Fernandez continues to receive her salary and housing allowance when she was suspended "with cause."

The NMC president serves at the pleasure of the Board of Regents.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said senators are ready to assist NMC in any way they can to ensure that NMC maintains its accreditation. She also said senators will be ready to meet with the visiting WASC team should the opportunity presents itself.

All these questions-and-answers were made right after NMC officials made a presentation to the Senate Committee on Education on the college's current operational status and accreditation.

NMC made a similar presentation to the House of Representatives in February.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) asked NMC officials whether they could offer entry-level English and math classes on the Rota and Tinian campuses.

Hofschneider, Manglona, Taimanao and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said they support any plan to reopen the NMC campuses on Rota and Tinian.

"We welcome such plan and tell us what you need to make that happen," Manglona said.

NMC

From Page 1

sate Cabrera for assuming additional responsibilities and duties when she was appointed to the post on Jan. 12.

In the memo, King asked Hofschneider to make sure that Cabrera's personnel action will reflect the "retroactive" salary adjustment.

Saipan Tribune learned that $3,677 in total retroactive payment was released to Cabrera during the payroll period of Jan. 29 through Feb. 26. However, personnel action for the interim president was requested only on Feb. 22.

Before her appointment as interim president, Cabrera was the NMC director for Adult Basic Education and was receiving an annual salary of $47,000—about $22.61 per hour. When she assumed the interim post, her rate was adjusted to $38.46 per hour to reflect the $80,000 annual salary for a president.

Yet despite her suspension, Fernandez is still receiving her $80,000 salary and $800 monthly housing allowance, as allowed by college policy.

King has yet to respond to e-mail inquiries sent by *Saipan Tribune* as of press time. Calls to her cell phone yesterday were not answered.

In an interview early last month, the board's Personnel Committee chair, Andrew Orsini, told *Saipan Tribune* that the additional compensation for Cabrera was just "informally" discussed with the board and full action has not been taken yet. He said the proposal would be formally introduced in the board's next meetings.

Orsini admitted yesterday that he was aware of the request for personnel action for Cabrera despite the absence of full board action and said his committee made the recommendation to the board chair.

Orsini believes the early release of the retroactive payment is not out of order because it is the prerogative of the board to provide the adjustment.

"The interim president is a totally separate matter from other NMC employees when it comes to personnel policy," he said, adding that the approval of the request and the release of the retroactive payment to Cabrera depended on the certification of the availability of funds.

"You have to remember that the president answers for all NMC employees to the board. The president is the board's employee and it is the board's prerogative to provide the compensation to her. I don't think there will be conflict in the action although there was no formal voting for the decision," Orsini explained to *Saipan Tribune*.

Orsini pointed out that people must understand that the NMC president is separate from other NMC employees and there are policies where the president is exempted.

The board has yet to decide whether it will reinstate Fernandez to her post or take any other action pending the result of its own fact-finding investigation.

OBAMA

From Page 1

System students are preparing at least 10,000 postcards and letters inviting Obama to visit the Commonwealth.

Obama was originally set to travel to Guam on March 18, but the travel date was pushed back in a bid to shore up support in the U.S. Senate for his health care reform package.

CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, at the invitation of Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, will be traveling to Guam on Monday for Obama's visit and will return to Saipan on Tuesday, press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"The original plan was to have the president meet with the Micronesia chief executives. We have not confirmed yet whether that would still happen after the trip was delayed. But the governor will be present when Obama speaks at a public event [in] Guam," Demapan said.

So far, only Fitial among CNMI officials is scheduled to go to Guam for the presidential visit. Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos will remain in the CNMI.

Overnight In Guam

On Monday night, Obama will be hosting a public event to speak with local Guam authorities and military personnel, said Ben Rhodes, who is Obama's deputy national security adviser for strategic communications.

Obama will leave for Indonesia the following day, and on to Australia.

The president's trip to the Asia-Pacific region will be from March 22 to 26.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, in a separate statement yesterday, said the president's visit will focus attention on Guam and the island's role in regional security.

"It is also an opportunity for the Obama administration to engage with us on issues important to our community. I join the people of Guam in extending a warm Hafa Adai to the President and I hope that he takes the opportunity to meet our people and to learn what makes our community a special part of America," said Bordallo.

Denis McDonough, Obama's chief of staff for the National Security Council, said the president is "going to make sure that we have a very realistic and sustainable well-thought out approach to Guam."

Obama will also take a hard look at the infrastructure needs of Guam, McDonough told reporters.

Obama was originally set to go to Guam with first lady Michelle Obama and their daughters, Malia and Sasha, on March 18, but in the revised schedule, the family will no longer be accompanying the president on his trip.

FUNDS

From Page 1

lotment is separate from each lawmaker's monthly salary of $8,260 and from the committee chairmanship budget.

Givers and receivers

Former Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider asked for a total transfer of $8,455 in three reprogramming from Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) and former House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios in a three-month period. Hofschneider ran for governor but lost to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in the November gubernatorial runoff polls.

Torres, who transferred a total of $7,005 to Hofschneider in two reprogramming, said he and Hofschneider shared a common legislative staff. The first transfer amounted to $2,335, and the second one was $4,670.

"We split the cost of her monthly salary, and that's the reason for the transfer of money," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

Former House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios also transferred $1,450 to Hofschneider's account. The two shared a common legislative staff during the 16th Legislature.

Palacios also received a single transfer of $4,000 to his discretionary funds account from former Rep. David Apatang in the first quarter of FY 2010. Palacios ran with Hofschneider during the November elections but the Republican tandem lost to Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos of the Covenant Party. Apatang didn't seek re-election.

Former Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, who is now the secretary of the Department of Public Lands, received $3,000 in operational funds transferred from four of his former colleagues: House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), former Rep. Justo Quitugua, and Apatang.

Babauta, in an interview, said he used the money transferred to his account to pay for projects in his precincts.

Benavente said Babauta, who didn't seek re-election, asked for help so he transferred $500 to the latter's account. Benavente said he didn't ask Babauta what he would use the money for.

Dela Cruz separately said yesterday that Babauta had outstanding office billings that needed to be taken cared of, so he helped him with $200.

"I am positive it's for public purpose; otherwise I wouldn't have agreed to it," Dela Cruz said.

The four fund transfers to Babauta consisted of $300, $500, $200, and $2,000.

Former Rep. Victor Hocog, who lost his mayoral bid on Rota, received a $1,000 fund transfer from Apatang.

Former Rep. Rosemond Santos, now chief prosecutor at the Office of the Attorney General, transferred $1,000 to the discretionary fund account of Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan).

Reyes, in a phone interview yesterday, said Santos wanted a solar power project at the Kagman Community Center funded and wanted Reyes to continue the project. Santos lost her re-election bid.

But Reyes said he will return the $1,000 to the governor's office or the general fund.

Former Rep. Ralph Torres, who is now a senator, asked and was granted a $300 fund transfer from Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan).

Yumul said yesterday that Torres "asked for funds assistance."

"I did not ask him what the funds would be used for. He just stated that he needed help," said Yumul.

Former House Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho, who is now the Covenant Party's candidate for the CNMI delegate race this November, received a transfer of $165 from former Rep. Justo S. Quitugua. Camacho didn't seek re-election.

He and Quitugua served Precinct 4 in the 16th Legislature.

Camacho said yesterday that the transfer was for shared expenses for a Precinct 4 event related to the Santa Remedios fiesta.

Between October and December, each lawmaker received salaries of $24,780 or $8,260 a month, higher than what they received from July to September of $22,367 or $7,455.66 a month.

Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said lawmakers in the 17th Legislature should be able to live within their means given the government's current financial problems.

RESOLVE

From Page 1

and foreign workers.

"They should sit down and resolve this matter," Syed said.

The UHM president was referring to recent statements made by Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown, Interior Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta, Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta Kaipat, and the Fitial administration.

At a recent public forum, Brown stated, among other things, that the CNMI Labor lost the authority to revoke umbrella permits issued to alien workers and those with immediate relative status when the federalization law took effect on Nov. 28, 2009.

Kaipat said, however, that Brown is "acting recklessly" and is only creating confusion.

Interior Assistant Secretary Babauta came to Brown's defense, saying that he and Brown discussed the issues in great detail with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to ensure there was a consensus between their respective departments on the implementation of federal and local laws.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services also issued a "Question-and-Answer" guidance that supported Brown's statements on umbrella permits and alien employment issues.

In response, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos issued their own "Question-and-Answer" document, asserting that the answers provided by USCIS to some questions were not consistent with the provisions of the federalization law.

With the CNMI government and federal agencies' conflicting views, Syed said both sides should come to the table and reach a resolution.

Syed said his group will be meeting at the Kilili Pavilion this Saturday at 5pm and they have invited the USCIS and other federal officials to talk more about umbrella permits and other issues.

Man allegedly cuts girlfriend's hair with machete

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police arrested Monday night a 23-year-old man who allegedly assaulted his girlfriend and cut her hair with a machete at their house on Rota when she tried to wake him up.

Joseph Shane Aldan was arrested in Songsong for assault and battery, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Rota Department of Public Safety's Sgt. Jonathan DLC. Garces stated in his report that the victim was taken to the Rota Health Center with a swollen head, abrasions on her arm, knees, and elbow, and redness on her chin.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo issued the arrest warrant, imposing a $25,000 cash bail for Aldan's temporary liberty. A bail hearing was set yesterday afternoon in the Superior Court on Saipan.

Garces stated in his report that DPS Rota received a call about a disturbance at the victim's residence in Songong District No. 4 on Feb. 2 at 7:30pm.

When a police officer responded to the house, he saw shanks of hair on the floor of the porch and bottles of alcoholic beverages on the table. He found more hair on the ground and bottles of alcohol at the backside of the house.

The officer then saw that the victim's head was swollen and bleeding. Medics were called and she was brought to the Rota Health Center.

Garces said Aldan was not in the house when the officer came.

The victim's mother showed the officer the machete that Aldan allegedly used to cut her daughter's hair. The officer collected the hair and the machete as evidence.

In interview with the victim on Feb. 3, she stated that the incident arose when she tried to wake up Aldan, who was sleeping on a table outside their house. When the victim tried to turn Aldan, the table he was lying on overturned, causing both of them to fall.

Aldan allegedly grabbed his girlfriend's hair and stepped on it so she could not get up. Aldan then had their son get a machete and started cutting her hair with it. He kept yelling at her and, at one point, punched the ground, slightly hitting her on the head.

The victim said she pushed Aldan off her, but he grabbed her arm. She said she grabbed his hair and the assault only stopped when they agreed to let go of each other's hair.

Aldan left the house, but later returned and apologized to her.

Aldan also allegedly hit the victim on the chest in January.

Ex-convict admits 'ice' use, volunteers to go back to jail

An ex-convict who is awaiting sentencing for possession of a firearm admitted yesterday that he used methamphetamine or "ice" in two separate occasions and volunteered to go back to jail.

Dexter Ulloa Maratita, through his counsel, agreed to have the U.S. District Court for the NMI enter a finding of him violating his pretrial release conditions.

He agreed to be remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshal yesterday without the need of a hearing.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Wiseman approved the stipulation.

The U.S. government was represented yesterday by assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto.

Maratita admitted that, while on pre-trial release, he used "ice" on Jan. 30, 2010, and on Feb. 28, 2010.

A revocation hearing was supposedly set for yesterday after the U.S. Probation Office moved to revoke Maratita's pre-trial release.

Last November, Maratita pleaded guilty to a charge of possession of a firearm by a prohibited person. His sentencing was set for March 24, 2010.

The plea agreement stated that on March 16, 2009, Maratita sold a Colt .25 semi-automatic pistol to a "cooperating source" working with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

Maratita has a prior conviction for a theft case in 1997.

The federal court ordered that the defendant be released on a $25,000 unsecured bond with conditions.

On Oct. 20, 2009, Maratita was released upon executing a $20,000 unsecured bond plus many other conditions.

In her recommendation to revoke the pre-trial release, Probation Officer Melinda N. Brunson said the defendant violated the condition that prohibited him from using a controlled substance. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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NMC Staff Senate elects new president

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College's Staff Senate has elected Clarice Arriola as its new president during a special election held last week.

The nine-member decision-making body of the college's staff named Arriola to succeed Joyce Taro, who resigned from the post last month.

Besides Arriola, a new vice president—Randall Nelson—was also named, replacing Jack Kiyoshi who also quit recently.

Arriola previously served as the group's secretary and treasurer. Her appointment to the presidency led to a vacancy in the position. Kathy Palacios was named as the group's new secretary and treasurer.

Seven of the nine-member Staff Senate participated in the election, held Tuesday last week, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

As of February, NMC had a total workforce of 182 for the Spring semester, with 76 faculty members and 106 staffers. The Staff Senate serves as the official representative body of the staff assembly.

Arriola has been with the college's Student Support Services for over six years now. As Staff Senate president, she will sit on the Board of Regents as an honorary member on behalf of the college staff.

She confirmed her appointment yesterday, described it as "very challenging." She vowed to do her best to be an effective leader for her co-workers and to represent them well.

"I am honored to be elected as the new president of the Staff Senate. We will work with the NMC leadership and the leaders of other governance groups on campus to continue NMC's forward momentum," she said.

Arriola said it is her goal to keep staffers well informed on all issues facing the college and its employees. She also vowed to seek the consensus of most members before taking any official position on specific college issues.

Arriola

Besides her new appointment, Arriola was also named a member of the college's Human Resource Task Force. The task force will work with Board of Regents' Personnel Committee in getting input from all campus sectors on plans to draft new personnel policies and regulations for the college.

Arriola supports revisiting current regulations at the college to ensure the protection of staff and faculty.

NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera said she is confident in the leadership of the new officers.

"We would like to thank the outgoing officers for their time and commitment. We also congratulate our newly elected members and officers to the Staff Senate. We are confident in their abilities to represent the entire staff assembly," said Cabrera.

The Staff Senate also includes Julene Santos, Leonard Morales, James Santos, Becky Sablan, and Sue Palacios.

Kidnapping suspect found liable to answer charges

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman found probable cause yesterday to warrant the filing of charges against the suspect in the kidnapping and assault of a 5-year-old girl in Kagman.

During the preliminary hearing, Wiseman ordered the 35-year-old Steven A. Hocog to respond to charges of kidnapping, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Wiseman placed Hocog under house arrest and set the arraignment for March 29 at 9am.

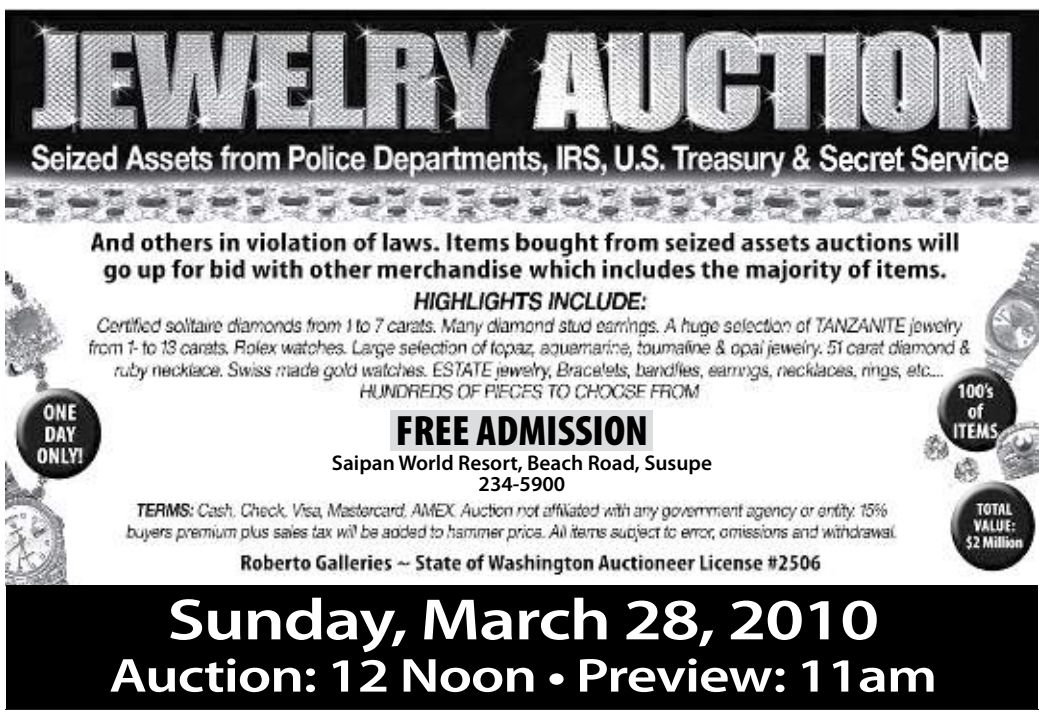
Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher represented the CNMI government. Assistant public defender Richard Miller served as counsel for Hocog.

On Friday, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo allowed Hocog's temporary release after the suspect posted a property bond consisting of a homestead with a tin house. Govendo, however, placed him under house arrest and barred him from having contact with the alleged victim and her family as well as all children under the age of 18.

Hocog is the prime suspect in the kidnapping of a girl from Rio Laundry in Kagman III on the evening of March 2. He allegedly brought her to an abandoned house, where she later managed to escape.

The girl sustained minor scratches on her hands, legs, and chin. Police said bruises were also visible on the child's neck.

A doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center reportedly examined the girl and found no physical signs of sexual contact.
(Ferdie de la Torre)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BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 2nd birthday to Vincent John Lg.Agulto! May your day be filled with happiness and blessings! We love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, Erin, Grandma, and Grandpa.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 19th birthday to our loving sister, Kasey Camacho, who is celebrating her special day today, March 17, 2010! More to come and God bless. We love you very much! Greetings come from your NMC sisters, party girls, & family!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI gets $128K for emergency food, shelter programs

The Northern Mariana Islands has been awarded $128,700 in federal funds under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program.

The CNMI has been selected to receive the funding under phrase 28 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the Commonwealth. The award is based upon the total number of unemployed individuals in the jurisdiction.

The selection was made by the Emergency Food and Shelter National Program, which is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from The Salvation Army, American Red Cross, United Jewish Communities, Catholic Charities USA, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A, and United Way of America.

A local board made up of the mayor of Saipan, Karidat, American Red Cross, the DCCA's Division of Youth Services, Veteran's Affairs Office, and others will determine how the funds appropriated by the U.S. Congress to the CNMI are to be distributed among local emergency food and shelter programs.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must be private voluntary non-profits or unit of government; have an accounting system; practice non-discrimination; and have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs. If they are a private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

More information about the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program can be found at http://www.efsp.unitedway.org.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for this funding may contact Lauri B. Ogumoro, Phase 28 Local Board chair, at 234-6981 or at the main office of Karidat in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. The deadline for applications is Monday, March 26, 2010. ***(PR)***

Lots of prizes await Walkathon participants

Looking for a cell phone to text your friends, a new netbook to surf the Web, or maybe 25,000 OnePass miles? These are just a few of the great prizes available at this year's 24th annual Red Cross Walkathon.

"The business community has come out in force again and really offered great incentives and prizes for this year's event" said co-chair Roxanne Ferrer.

The 24th annual Walkathon is on March 27 on all three islands. Prizes—free hotel stays, dental cleaning, rounds of golf, restaurant certificates, jet ski rides, water park passes, eye exams, children's toys, sporting equipment and much more—will be given out in various categories including schools, individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations.

There will also be a health fair with many social service agencies, as well as carnival games, face painting, bounce house, petting zoo, and cooking demonstrations. Subway sandwiches and refreshments will be provided.

Contact your school's Walkathon coordinator for a sign up form or call the Chapter for more information. A $15 donation receives a Walkathon T-shirt and a mini-First Aid kit. ***(PR)***

Help sought in finding missing Tinian man

The NMI Crime Stoppers is asking for the community's help in finding a 79-year-old man who disappeared on Tinian nearly 10 years ago.

In its "Crime of the Week" bulletin issued yesterday, the NMI Crime Stoppers said that Manuel Dela Cruz disappeared from Marpo Valley, Tinian, on Sept. 30, 2000, as reported by family members.

An islandwide search for Dela Cruz was conducted for a couple of weeks and he was never found or located.

Dela Cruz was last seen at about 3am, on Sept. 30, 2000. He was wearing a pair of black Levis pants, a white polo shirt with black print, and a red baseball cap with the Chicago Bulls logo on it.

Dela Cruz is described as being 5'2" tall, 104 lbs, and was 79 years old at the time he was reported missing.

The Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigative Bureau and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the community. Contact Crime Stoppers coordinator Jason Tarkong at 664-9026 or the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous. Caller ID is not used.

Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest. ***(NMI Crime Stoppers)***

Samuel C. Lo, O.D., M.D.

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Dr. Samuel C. Lo is pleased to announce his affiliation with the **Hardt Eye Clinic.**

Dr. Lo received his ophthalmology training at the world renowned New York Eye and Ear Infirmary and followed by a retina fellowship at the Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York. He specializes in the treatment of retinal disease including Diabetic eye disease, Macular degeneration, Retinal detachment, Cataract and Glaucoma. Dr. Lo returns to Saipan every few months to offer "**Advanced Eye Care**" to the people of Saipan.

Dr. Lo will be in Saipan beginning March 22, 2010 for one week.
Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance are accepted.

Appointments can be made by calling Hardt Eye Clinic (670) 235-2030, the Laser and Eye Surgery Center (808) 949-2000 or by email at drsamuello@yahoo.com.

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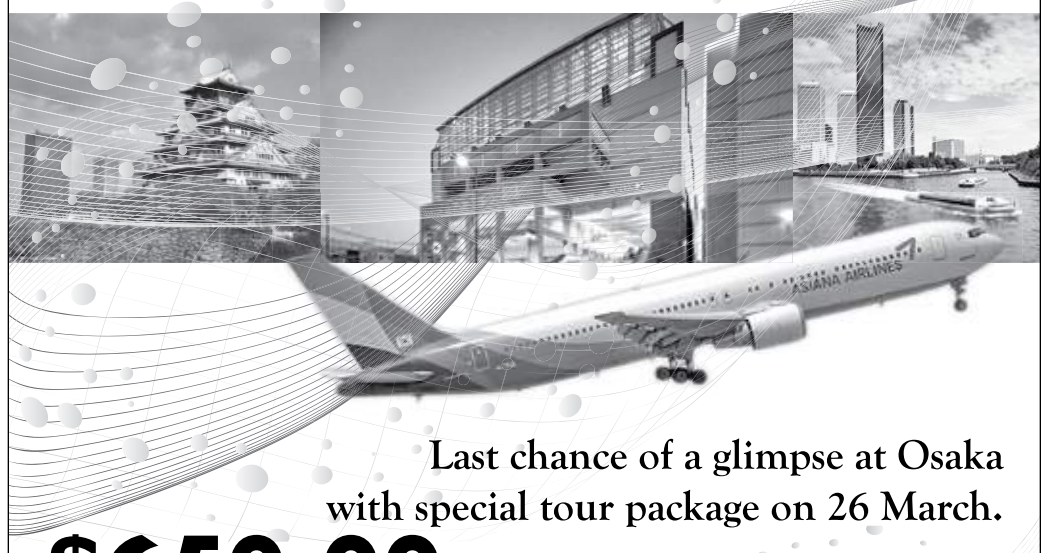

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For more information and reservation, 288-2624/2625/2626

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MELL SEMBAWANG	027E	3/6 Sat	3/4 Thu	3/4 Thu	3/2 Tue	2/27 Sat	3/12 Fri	3/8 Mon	3/7 Sun	2/28 Sun	2/28 Sun	3/8 Mon	3/12 Fri	3/14 Sun	3/16 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	006E	3/13 Sat	3/11 Thu	3/11 Thu	3/9 Tue	3/6 Sat	3/19 Fri	3/15 Mon	3/14 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/15 Mon	3/19 Fri	3/21 Sun	3/23 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	035E	3/20 Sat	3/18 Thu	3/18 Thu	3/16 Tue	3/13 Sat	3/26 Fri	3/22 Mon	3/21 Sun	3/14 Sun	3/14 Sun	3/22 Mon	3/26 Fri	3/28 Sun	3/30 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	028E	3/27 Sat	3/25 Thu	3/25 Thu	3/23 Tue	3/20 Sat	4/2 Fri	3/29 Mon	3/28 Sun	3/21 Sun	3/21 Sun	3/29 Mon	4/2 Fri	4/4 Sun	4/6 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	007E	4/3 Sat	4/1 Thu	4/1 Thu	3/30 Tue	3/27 Sat	4/9 Fri	4/5 Mon	4/4 Sun	3/28 Sun	3/28 Sun	4/5 Mon	4/9 Fri	4/11 Sun	4/13 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	036E	4/10 Sat	4/8 Thu	4/8 Thu	4/6 Tue	4/3 Sat	4/16 Fri	4/12 Mon	4/11 Sun	4/4 Sun	4/4 Sun	4/12 Mon	4/16 Fri	4/18 Sun	4/20 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SEMBAWANG	027E	3/20 Sat	3/21 Sun	3/21 Sun	3/23 Tue	3/24 Wed	3/26 Fri	3/28 Sun	SKIP	4/2 Fri	4/3 Sat	4/8 Thu	4/27 Tue	4/11 Sun	4/7 Wed
MELL SERAPONG	006E	3/27 Sat	3/28 Sun	3/28 Sun	SKIP	3/31 Wed	4/2 Fri	4/4 Sun	SKIP	4/9 Fri	4/10 Sat	4/15 Thu	5/4 Tue	4/18 Sun	4/14 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	035E	4/3 Sat	4/4 Sun	4/4 Sun	4/6 Tue	4/7 Wed	4/9 Fri	4/11 Sun	SKIP	4/16 Fri	4/17 Sat	4/22 Thu	5/11 Tue	4/25 Sun	4/21 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	028E	4/10 Sat	4/11 Sun	4/11 Sun	SKIP	4/14 Wed	4/16 Fri	4/18 Sun	SKIP	4/23 Fri	4/24 Sat	4/29 Thu	5/18 Tue	5/2 Sun	4/28 Wed
MELL SERAPONG	007E	4/17 Sat	4/18 Sun	4/18 Sun	4/20 Tue	4/21 Wed	4/23 Fri	4/25 Sun	SKIP	4/30 Fri	5/1 Sat	5/6 Thu	5/25 Tue	5/9 Sun	5/5 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	036E	4/24 Sat	4/25 Sun	4/25 Sun	SKIP	4/28 Wed	4/30 Fri	5/2 Sun	SKIP	5/7 Fri	5/8 Sat	5/13 Thu	6/1 Tue	5/16 Sun	5/12 Wed

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Tinian's books, donation center reopens

The Helping-Hands Books & Donation Center, the first-ever and only donation center for Tinian's in-need residents will open again soon, according to its founder, maïa. This writer and world-wandering peace activist had been running the center and her free books program in various locations since coming to Tinian to "retire" just before Christmas, 2005. The center took up half of her previously donated duplex for over two years, before she had to close it in August 2009 due to the loss of the free building space.

Happily, she said, her generous landlord, Tinian businessman Edward Villagomez, has now arranged for a reduced rent for the entire building, so maïa can afford to again provide what so many on the island had come to depend on.

"I asked the previous mayor and then the new one to help, since it's for all of their people, but nothing came of it, so since I can't stand to see all those who need it so badly do without, if *I* have to go without some things to squeeze the rent out of my Social Security check—my only income—then it's worth it to me," she said.

Teen supporters of the Helping-Hands Center had packed up and moved all the clothing, shoes, and other items into donated storage space last year and just when that space had to be given up to be used for housing, the offer to regain its old site popped up.

"Just one more proof that we're 'meant' to keep doing this," maïa said. "I just wish I could start the same thing on our other islands, as it's wonderful to see people helping each other like this. The people here bring in all the donated items, except for most of the books, which I get from donors around the world that I help with writing. It's so easy to do. All you need is a building and someone to run it. I'd love to show them how to do it on Rota and even Saipan, if anyone is interested."

The new/old location has just been repainted and if she can afford it, will have store shelving, instead of the odd assortment of tables and jury-rigged shelves as before. "There are some great used shelves for sale at Mrs. Kim's store that I'm hoping I can manage to buy, so our new center will be better than ever," maïa said.

If all goes well, the center will reopen by the end of the month.

Donations can be dropped off any time from now on, however, at the duplex behind the Tinian Mayor's Office.

Anyone wishing to volunteer their time and help to get the center up and running again can call maïa at 433-9993, or come by any time, she said. "I'm just so happy to be able to reopen it and start stashing away donations for what will be our *fifth* annual 'Christmas Give-Away' that I'm in tears just writing about it." ***(PR)***

USDOE's Melendez, Sablan take up ESEA reauthorization

WASHINGTON, D.C.—As the House Committee on Education and Labor prepares to rewrite the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. (D-MP) Sablan met with Education Department Assistant Secretary Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana yesterday to discuss Sablan's goals for the Northern Mariana Islands in the education overhaul.

The meeting follows Sablan's discussions earlier this month with Education Secretary Arne Duncan and with the submission of Sablan's requests for changes in the law filed with the Committee on Education and Labor.

"We have four goals," said Sablan. "We want the Northern Marianas to have more access to funds under Title I of the ESEA. Compared to States the Northern Marianas is not receiving a sufficient share.

"We also want access to the Early Reading First program that helps pre-schoolers get off to a good start.

"The new 'Race to the Top' and 'Investing in Innovation' competitive grant programs need to be opened up to the Northern Marianas.

Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana meets with Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) to discuss Sablan's education goals for the Northern Mariana Islands. The House Education and Labor Committee, on which Sablan sits, is beginning the process of rewriting the nation's basic laws governing K-12 education.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"And, lastly, we are working on a new program to recruit teachers to our islands and other remote areas of the country—similar to the public health programs for doctors—by helping with their transitional expenses and forgiving some of their student loans. This would also encourage our own students to return home to teach.

"I am very appreciative that Assistant Secretary Meléndez, who will be a key representative of the Obama Administration during the ESEA reauthorization, was able to spend some time discussing my goals and how they can fit in to the overall Administration blueprint for education."

As assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education, Meléndez serves as the principal adviser to Duncan on all matters related to pre-kindergarten, elementary and secondary education.

Meléndez served as superintendent of the Pomona Unified School District in California before being appointed to the U.S. Department of Education in 2009. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP: 2010-CDA-06-RFP

CLOSING DATE: Friday, March 19, 2010
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"APPRAISAL OF CDA'S PROPERTIES"

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, WAKIN'S BLDG., GUALO RAI, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, March 26, 2010 beginning at 9:00 AM at the MPLT Conference Room, Suite #107, Morgen Building; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I PRELIMINARIES
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II CONSULTANT'S REPORTS
- Investment Consultant Reports
- Loan Administrator Reports
  - o Portfolio Status Update
  - o Default Account Referrals
  - o Payment Re-amortization Schedule
  - o Loan Modifications
- Legal Counsel Reports
  - o Foreclosure Matters
  - o APLE 501 Account Reconciliation
  - o Fiduciary/Providers Legal Memorandum
- Board Consultant Reports
  - o Financial Statements – JAN 2010
  - o Flash Reports – FEB 2010

III OLD BUSINESS
- Local High Yield Investments RFP Review
- Trustee Liability Insurance Update
- Administrative Matters for Review

IV COMMUNICATIONS
- Service Provider Fees Update – Richmond Capital/J.King, Esq.
- Exit Notice – Morgen Ent.
- DPL Meeting Report

V NEW BUSINESS
- FY 2008 Annual Report Review & Approval
- Atalanta Sosnoff – Evercore Announcement
- Senate Legislative Initiative #17-01/17-02
- DPL vs. CNMI (Certified Questions)

VI MISCELLANEOUS
VII ADJOURNMENT

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission provides public notice that it is considering the adoption of guidelines for regulatory activities involving the negotiation, mediation, arbitration and approval of agreements between local exchange carriers pursuant to the federal Communications Act, as added by the Telecommunications Act 0f 1996, Public Law No. 104-104. The proposed guides are available for public inspection at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's office at the Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan and also on the Chamber's website under Public Utilities: www.saipanchamber.com.

The Commission invites public comment regarding the proposed guidelines, which should be submitted by either hand delivery to the Chamber's office or by email to kyle.calabrese@gmail.com not later than March 22, 2010. Inquiries regarding the proposed guidelines should be referred to Commissioner Calabrese at the above email address.

March 16, 2010.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 17, 1999

Savings give CPA a lift

After five months of carrying out intensified cost-cutting measures, the aviation division of the Commonwealth Ports Authority finally registered a 213 percent jump in net income totaling $56,068 in February, compared to the same period in fiscal year 1998. As of February 28, 1999, the ports authority was able to save $205,872 from the budget of operating expenses and capital expenditures, according to Dave S. Demapan, comptroller. Management is expecting to save some $550,000 at the end of this year with the reduction in working hours from 80 to 72 hours per pay period starting April 1, 1999. Furthermore, management is encouraging employees who are eligible to retire to avail of the early retirement program to reduce contribution to the Retirement Fund.

NMC probe is within bounds: Hofschneider

The chair of the House committee on Health, Education and Welfare yesterday lashed back at mounting criticisms against the series of oversight hearings conducted by the panel on the Northern Marianas College. Defending the legislative inquiry, HEW chair Rep. Heinz Hofschneider said the panel has uncovered several findings that showed mismanagement and abuse of authority at CNMI's lone higher learning institution. He also attacked during a House session yesterday statements which have cast doubt on the intention of the committee to investigate into the operations of the community college.

March 17, 2003

Senate OKs Rota park marine as conservation area

The Senate passed a legislative amendment that seeks to include Rota's Coral Garden and Pinatang Park Marine, along with its surrounding waters, as a protected area under the Managaha Marine Conservation Act. The bill, offered by Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig, earned eight affirmative votes from Senate members during a session Wednesday. Senate Bill 13-25 seeks to declare the Coral Garden and Pinatang Park Marine as a conservation area in order to protect and preserve, by strict regulatory enforcement, the land and water resources for the enjoyment of future generations. The conservation measure is now before the House for action.

Miss CNMI candidates face judges

Candidates to the 2003 Miss Northern Marianas beauty pageant went through a thorough question-and-answer portion during a one-on-one discussion with members of the board of judges Saturday at the Hotel Nikko Saipan. All candidates personally appeared before the judges, whose identities were withheld, to answer personal and critical questions, which would be part of the overall scoring prior to the holding of the coronation night. According to Northern Marianas Beauty Pageant Association president Gerard Salas, the candidates first engaged the Board of Judges in a roundtable discussion at the Benkay Restaurant of the Hotel Nikko Saipan yesterday at 2:30pm.

March 17, 2004

Paul wants PTI's promise on paper

Senate Floor Leader Paul A. Manglona yesterday pressed against the approval of Pacific Telecom Inc.'s Verizon acquisition until the private firm inks a legally binding commitment to resolve the years-long inter-island tolls issue. The Rota senator, in a letter to Commonwealth Telecommunication Commission chair Norman T. Tenorio, said that, although he supports the Delgados' bid to purchase Verizon, "the sale should not be approved until the inter-island toll rate is decided and written in specific terms." "We cannot make the same mistake in accepting verbal promises as legal ones," Manglona asserted.

Delegation takes new tack on casino initiative

The Tinian Legislative Delegation has resorted to another approach to push its proposed amendments to the Revised Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act of 1989 amid a dispute over the initiative's failure to muster sufficient number of votes during the November 2003 polls. Tinian Rep. Norman Palacios last week introduced Tinian Local Bill 14-1, which proposes similar changes reflected in the popular initiative. "We have discussed this with the AGO and we are taking this approach as a faster way to amend the Act," explained Senate President Joaquin G. Adriano, who is Secretary of the Tinian Legislative Delegation. Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja had dismissed the lawsuit filed by Allen Perez against the Election Commission pursuant to an agreement by the parties.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-10-017

CUC WATER FACILITIES UPGRADE/REPLACEMENT OF TRANSFORMERS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms to supply and deliver the following power distribution materials for CUC's Water facilities upgrade/ replacement of transformers & conductor project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

TRANSFORMERS
TYPE : Transformer, Pole 3-Phase 13.8KV-120/240V TB (Three Bushing) 30 KVA
QUANTITY : (50) Fifty

CONDUCTOR
TYPE : Conductor, CU, Bare, SOL, HD, #4
QUANTITY : 5,000 Feet

Interested parties may be pick-up the bid package & the detailed specification at CUC, Procurement & Supply Office at Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, 3rd Floor, Room No.4 between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-10-017, CUC Water Facilities Upgrade/ Replacement of Transformers, Saipan." to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than April, 05, 2010 at 10:00 AM, (CST) local time, at which time they will be publicly opened. Late submissions will not be considered.

Local Bidders (CNMI based business) will be required to submit a copy of a CNMI Business License upon notice of award of contract. Off-island Bidders (Non-CNMI based business) are excluded from the requirement of submitting a copy of a CNMI Business license upon notice of award of contract.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries should be directed to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer at email: msablan@cucqov.net and John Ed Onedera, CUC Power Division Engineer at email: johno@cucgov.net

/s/ TIMOTHY CONNOR
Legal Counsel

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Republican Party of the NMI Association Announces its **2010 General Membership Meeting**. All Republicans and individuals who wish to join the Republican Party are urged to attend this meeting.

What: **General Membership Meeting**
When: **Thursday March 18, 2010**
Time: **6:30 pm**
Location: **Garapan Central Park**

AGENDA

I. Meeting Called to Order

II. Remarks

III. U.S. Delegate Letters of Intent and Upcoming Election

IV. Election of New Officers
a. President
b. 1st Vice President
c. 2nd Vice President
d. Secretary
e. Treasurer

V. New Officers Meeting

VI. Adjournment

Acting President Mr. Juan L. Babauta will preside over the meeting until a new set of Officers are elected. Persons nominated or who wish to serve as an Officer of the Republican Party must be present during the meeting.

Thank you and See you all there.

Paid for by outgoing President, David Attao, Republican Party of the NMI Association.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 10-015

"EDUCATION LEADERS EVALUATION PROJECT"

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in providing a **"Process for the creation and validation of several standards-based evaluation tools and training/instruction of CNMI PSS administrators in the use of such tools"**. The Scope of Work is available beginning March 17, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Thursday, April 6, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. in the 2nd floor Conference Room, Retirement Fund Building.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Tim Thornburgh, Federal Program Officer via fax to 670.664-3797 or e-mail to thornburght@gmail.com no later than April 12, 2010.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 10-015" containing (1) Original and Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. Any proposals submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

This project is funded through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB 10-019

"GRAPHING CALCULATORS FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (PSS)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting Competitive Sealed Bids for **TWO THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED THIRTY EIGHT (2938) GRAPHING CALCULATORS FOR THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (PSS).**

The Scope of Work is available beginning March 17, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950, Faxed requests maybe sent to 664-3791.

Bids should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-019"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than **March 31, 2010 at 10:00 am.**, at which time, bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: robert.florian@pss.cnmi.mp

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA).

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 64

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Give us all a clue

President Barack Obama ramped up the pressure on members of the U.S. House this week to vote for health care reform by March 18, just days from now.

Obama has barnstormed the country, saying he's tired of talking about health care. "The time for talk is over," he said Wednesday.

His political apparatus sent targeted e-mails to his followers on Thursday, with the local office number for their member of Congress. "Please call today," the e-mails said. "There's no time to spare."

Mr. President, could you spare just a little time to show us exactly what will be in the health care package?

We know what's in the Senate bill, which may come to a House vote next week.

We know, in broad terms, what changes Obama said he wants.

But then there's the "TK" bill. TK as in 'To Come."

The House is being asked to pass a Senate bill many members don't like, with the promise that another bill will fix the Senate bill. That bill is supposed to contain the changes Obama proposed, plus whatever is negotiated by leaders of Congress. It will be the final word on health care reform.

The public hasn't seen this bill. No one has. House Democratic leaders reportedly started on Thursday to fill in some members on what will be in it. But it is still a work in progress. House and Senate negotiators are trying to resolve a laundry list of differences. Most crucial: The Congressional Budget Office hasn't yet said how much these changes would cost or save taxpayers, consumers and businesses.

But the pressure's on for House members to commit to health care reform.

How can House members decide in good faith how to vote on a package they haven't seen?

Well you could follow the logic of Democratic Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania. Last December, he was asked about a similarly hazy deal on health care. "Any big agreement is progress, even if we do not know any of the details," he said.

Details, shmetails. Let's vote!

No wonder Americans are wary of this process. They've seen the backroom deals cut for votes in the Senate. They've seen Democratic leaders embrace a legislative maneuver to avoid Senate rules and jam through a purely partisan bill. And now they hear the president demanding a vote before the final language of a near-trillion-dollar package has been settled.

It's hard to fathom how House Democrats, many of whom were reluctant from the start, can commit to this.

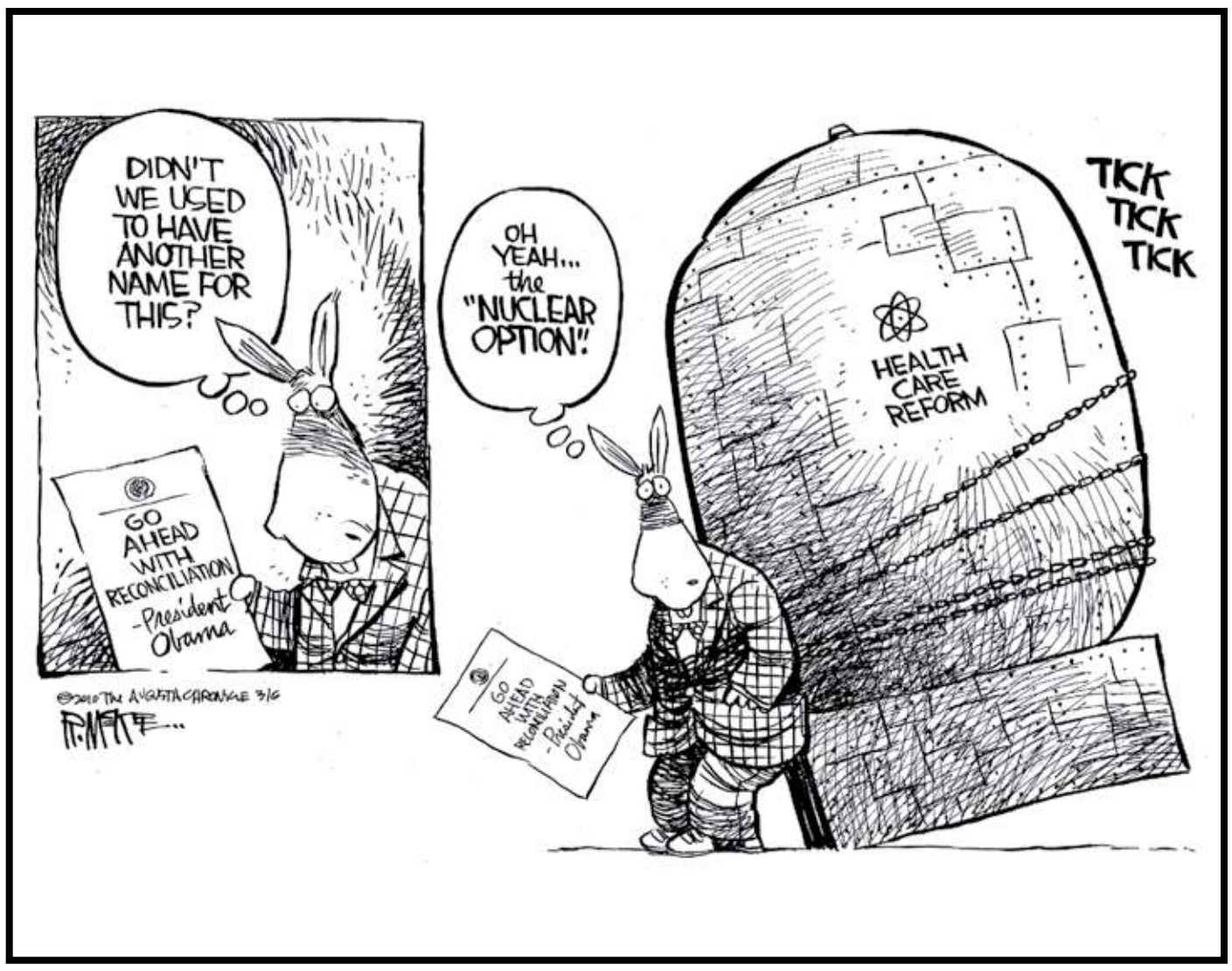
Democrats, do this in the daylight. You have time. You have in the past set artificial deadlines and then blown them.

Don't give the American people talking points. Give them—heck, give your own members of Congress—the complete details and time to figure out what this will mean. Let your members cast a careful, informed vote.

More than half of Americans don't trust this health care reform push. "The reason President Obama can't move the numbers and build public support is because the fundamentals are stacked against him. Most voters believe the current plan will harm the economy, cost more than projected, raise the cost of care, and lead to higher middle-class taxes," pollsters Scott Rasmussen and Doug Schoen wrote recently the Wall Street Journal.

Is it any surprise?

(c) 2010, Chicago Tribune


DIDN'T WE USED TO HAVE ANOTHER NAME FOR THIS?
GO AHEAD WITH RECONCILIATION -President Obama
OH YEAH... the "NUCLEAR OPTION"!
HEALTH CARE REFORM
TICK TICK TICK
GO AHEAD WITH RECONCILIATION -President Obama

Marianas March Madness on St. Patrick's Day

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section*

Patrick was a young 15-year-old Roman abducted by Irish raiders and brought to Ireland where he slaved for six years before escaping back to the British Isles. He was, however, smitten by the emerald isle enough that, after he joined the ranks of the clergy (which was the path to upward mobility then since being a royal is by blood lineage, not unlike being a politician, or a grunt in Uncle Sam's organized WMD institutions) he would see a vision of his former captors saying: *We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us.*

He did. He returned as a Bishop no less, but legally without protection, and as a foreigner, beaten, robbed of all he had, and put in chains. As a cleric, he administratively failed to establish the parish system of the Iberian model; instead, Ireland would flourish with its monastic Orders that, in today's historical reckoning, "saved Western civilization."

Being an administratively self-defrocked in the Anglo-Catholic Methodist tradition, Patrick's experience resonates. I was told when I came to *walk among* Immanuel's warm-hearted faithful not to wear my Filipino *barong* shirt at the airport. An anti-Pinoy sentiment seethed on island, I was warned. It turned out that the beleaguered defensive animosity, still prevailing and stronger now in this time of political distress and economic crisis, is socially aimed at non-Chamolinians of all coloration. Equality in discrimination is, at least, color-blind!

Still, after having my office broken into nine times by betel-nut chewing vandals who did not hesitate to leave their telltale tracks at the former Head Start facility in the old STARpo at Chalan Kanoa, losing equipment and other valuables, left a lingering bitter taste. Adding insult to injury, I lost two valuable laptops and date in a room where the suspected perpetuator had the audacity to show me "how anyone could have broken into" my locked-up room. Bereft of solid evidence, neither I, nor the responding officer, could go no further than the police report.

March Madness is media's title for the NCAA hoops, an annual basketball teams' roundup from Kansas, North Carolina, Kentucky and New York, with occasional cameos of teams from other States. Failing entry to the NCAA road to the Final Four may get a team a consolation appearance at the NIT's Madison Square Garden, as the reigning NCAA champs Tar Heel s are currently on.

Our Marianas madness is varied, with Madeleine's Marianas Marine Monument Center mockery a recent example. More distressing are the recent accounts of either official benign neglect, or criminal disregard for other people's rights. Consider the case of the Japanese tourist ran over on Beach Road by a local motorist last year, left to languish at the CHC morgue. With that story, any inroads to CNMI tourism in a monthlong promotion by word-of-mouth in northern China last February has now come to naught. Add Li Gui Xiang's recent account of her nightmare in the woman-handling by Saipan's Finest raises goose pumps on our democratic sensibilities.

We wrote earlier of the case of an inmate whose journey from a rosy hope of bettering her life in the unlamented garment factory lines of Saipan a decade ago led to the unfortunate handling of a lucrative and widely consumed illicit element in the CNMI. Pleading guilt and forsaking all the assets earned in the trade, the indicted consented to immediate deportation at the completion of the year-long sentence. The judge so ordered.

Well, officials who confiscated the inmate's passport misplaced it, and upon learning that it expired while inmate was in custody, applied for travel papers. Meanwhile, inmate languished in confinement without enlightenment of situation, or image of future prospects. Finally, self-survival led to a lawyer, and 88 days later, inmate was finally released. A patent case of civil rights violation, the lawyer tried negotiating for compensation for the period of illegal detention but AG's office was unresponsive, headless at the time, with immigration lawyers allegedly burdened by caseloads, and the mild-mannered Deputy AG "Kutie" on the case reportedly soft-hearted on felines of the four-legged variety but cold-blooded on the two-legged ones. Besides, the inmate is *alien*, and who ever heard of a Chinese pursuing the protection of civil rights, is not an uncommon question raised!

A federal judge is scheduled to hear the case shortly, and the AG's defense is, not surprisingly, that of immunity from liability, and casting the burden of proof to misconduct on the side of the plaintiff. Meanwhile, the legally unprotected felon who still has to be handed back passport, and without legal status in the CNMI to be financially self-sufficient and subject to ICE action any day, is left to the mercy of the charity of friends, acquaintances and strangers to survive.

Our otherwise delightfully roguish AG, of course, is too preoccupied making political brownie points in the masseuse-gate, and performing sleight-of-words on whether local Labor Office actions still retain "power" over labor cases.

See MARIANAS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

SAIPANPRENEUR PROFILE

Connie Torres of Delacruz Pastry: Home of the original Apigigi

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Visit Saipan's famous Thursday Night Street Market, the Sabalu Market or the Tuesday farmers market across from Kristo Rai Church, and you'll have a chance to experience a unique Chamorro delicacy called Apigigi (a-PEE'-gee-gee; with "gi" as in give). It's a pastry made from young coconut, mixed with tapioca starch, sweetened with sugar, wrapped in a banana leaf and grilled.

The honor and place in history as the creator of the sweet Saipan treat with the funny name belongs to Antonio Villagomez Castro, a Chamorro farmer living on Saipan in 1964.

I spoke recently with Antonio's granddaughter, Connie Torres and his great-granddaughter Kimberly Delacruz, who have inherited a cultural legacy, a family tradition and one of the oldest family-run businesses on Saipan. I got the details of Apigigi's origin, a tour of the Delacruz kitchen, a family history lesson, and even the secret recipe (which I've sworn to protect with my life) and more!

Walt: So, tell me the origin of Apigigi!

Connie: When we were young, growing up on Saipan in the '60s, whenever we were sick, that's when we would get special treats to eat. You know, something we don't get every day, or every week because it wasn't easy to get at that time. You would have to be sick to try all the good stuff! So, one time, when my grandfather Antonio's wife (Veronica) was sick in the hospital, they didn't know what to feed her for *mirenda* (morning or afternoon snack), so my grandfather experimented and made a special treat for her. Everyone liked it, and we gave it away to people for their parties. And, we would go around to the neighbors and sell it.

Walt: How did it get its unusual name?

Connie: We asked that same question to our older family members, but no one really knows. There's no such thing as apigigi [in the Chamorro language]. It's just made up. I think maybe we kids, when we were small, were the ones who named it. *[It's easy to believe that it was a treat named by kids, given how much fun it is to actually say the name! Apigigi!—Walt]*

Walt: How did the business develop?

Connie: Antonio passed on in 1966. His mother lived longer than he did. The old lady would tell my mother, "You should continue making it. People really like it, and it's a good business."

But, my mother told her, "I don't have the help to do it." Her two sisters, [Antonio's daughters] were doing different things, you know, each to their own way.

My grandmother told her, "Continue, because you have three girls of your own (Linda, Annie, and me) who will help you."

And that's how I got involved in the business.

Walt: How did it continue growing?

Connie: In the early 70s, there were these nuns and priests from Guam who found out about Apigigi, and really loved it. Every time they traveled to Saipan, they had to bring it back to Guam with them.

At that time, we were all students at Mount Carmel. When they raised the tuition, it became too expensive for us. But one of those same nuns begged my mom not to take us out of the school. She prayed that our orders would increase to help us pay the tuition. Ever since then things have just kept growing!

Walt: What's changed in the process since the early days?

Connie: Not much. At first, we did everything manually. There was even a time my mom used to make her own starch. Up in Marpi, there was a place where wild tapioca grew. We used to go there once a month. We'd harvest tapioca, process it manually—skin it, soak it for a few hours, wash it, grind it by hand, drain off the water, sun dry it, mix it with coconut...

We used a rock to grind the tapioca. I used to cry a lot having to grind so much! In fact, we still have the original rock we used to grind the coconut!

WALT GOODRIDGE

Consolacion "Connie" Delacruz Torres and Kimberly Delacruz (Delacruz Pastry, Tokcha Ave., Susupe, Saipan).

When my dad went to the states in 1978, he saw an electric grinder, so, when he came back, he took what he saw, attached a motor to our corn grinder, and created his own motorized grinder for the coconut.

Walt: People call you from the states and from Guam when they're coming to Saipan and place special orders for your Apigigi. What makes YOURS so unique?

Connie: Well, for one, with other people's Apigigi, you have to eat it when it's hot. With ours, you can leave it out for three days and it's still good. Maybe it's the banana leaf. We grow our own banana trees on our property. Maybe the way we cook it is a little different. Or, maybe it's just because it is our product. We grew up with it, it's part of our family, so there's something about that that makes ours taste better, and taste the same way it did back in the '60s.

Walt: What's your business secret? What do you spend on advertising?

Connie: We don't need to spend to advertise. By giving it away, that's our advertising! We give it to friends who have parties. People try it, and they ask, "Where do you get this?"

Walt: Who is involved in the bakery now?

Connie: Myself, my sisters (Linda and Annie) and one worker (Teddy) who is the one who actually makes it. For selling at the market, there's a different crew. And, of course, Kimberly. [Kimberly Delacruz is Connie's niece. She is a first year NMC student, majoring in Business Management—Walt]

Walt: What's your role in the business, Kimberly?

Kimberly: I used to stay with auntie Connie when I was in middle school, and help her out with packing the Apigigi. Now, I'm kind of like the second in command. If auntie Connie is busy with the cooking, I'll be running around doing deliveries, making deposits, buying ingredients. Any errands, other than those here in the kitchen, I will be the one!

Walt: And what's unique about the business from your perspective?

Kimberly: We are a business that also preserves our culture.

Our process and techniques are the same we used from the start. We still mix it by hand. We still cook it by hand. We don't even need electricity. It's the same process, just updated a little to the meet the demand. It's still the same grinder that we used, except with a motor.

All the local tour guides, they'll come by the market and introduce the tourists to our Apigigi. But, I hear a lot that people here don't know that we were the original because we don't advertise. We're very underrated. It's a small business, but I believe it's a hidden gem of the island.

Walt: And you also just launched the Apigigi Web site, where people can see the menu, the kitchen, and even the actual stone your great-grandfather used to make the first Apigigi.

Kimberly: Yes, and our skillet also is the same pan that my great grandfather [Antonio] used. It's the same pan! I was amazed by that!

Walt: What pastries and products do you offer?

Kimberly: We have Tamales (tapioca and taro), Titiyas (flour, baking powder and coconut), Chicken Kelaguen, Tamales Gisu (a foil-wrapped tamale with seasoned rice and ground corn) and, of course, Apigigi.

Walt: I like that it all started with doing something for the family and has continued by keeping it family operated as well!

Connie: Yes, it's a true family business started by my grandfather—Antonio Villagomez Castro—who wanted to give a treat to his wife Veronica. Continued by his daughter and son-in-law—my mom and dad—Maria Castro Delacruz and Manuel Tenorio Delacruz—and passed on to me and my sisters Linda and Annie, and now with the help of a new generation: my niece—Kimberly. And everyone who tries and enjoys the original Apigigi becomes part of our family, too!

To visit Delacruz Pastry, turn off Beach Road at Mount Carmel Church, turn left right after Shirley's Coffee Shop, and look for the large sign on your left; call (670) 234-6978. Or visit http://apigigi.blogspot.com

(click on "View Complete profile" to hear how to pronounce Apigigi)

■ ■ ■

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* are encouraged to place orders at www.saipanfactorygirl.com. A new shipment is coming soon, and people are already claiming their copies even before it arrives! Don't miss out!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan).*

Letter to the Editor

Thank you!

A special "thank you!" to Congressman Gregorio Kilili and his staff in Washington, D.C. for the great lunch they provided for the 2010 Close-Up students. It was the first real meal we had in a week. The red rice! We thought we died and went to heaven. That was *the* highlight of our trip. On behalf of my students and I, I would like to say, "Thank you for taking time out from your busy schedule to entertain us." Have a safe and wonderful day. Loves of love from Saipan!

Josie Kaipat
Kagman, Saipan

MARIANAS

From Page 10

My friends in the printed media are no help. Remember *Newsweek's* apology on "The Case for Killing Grandma" cover? And Fox News' hype on Sarah Palin's "death panel" image? Well, ST's headline of "300 facing deportation and 200 umbrella permits revoked" was regrettably overstated. Perusing the article showed that the local Labor office was forwarding deportation cases to proper authorities, and there was hardly any elaboration on the revoked permits. Consequently, the already tarnished image of our *Lieveila/Refalawasch* Cinta who, with brother Gus carried a picture of pleasant and accommodating *Olomwaay* gentility, has turned into a fierce face of Nazi hound dog to many in the foreign workers' contingent.

The tradition of Pacific Islanders' *Politics of Collaboration* on island, if published accounts are any indication, has moved to the combat zone. Example, is Kilili doing such a bad job that Joe Camacho needs to streamline the office with digital wizardry? The discarded used condom on the Pueto Rico heap has been an image used to characterize treatment of people in the CNMI. It may very well represent our particular Marianas March Madness. St. Patrick, help us!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers in the morning, partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers in the afternoon. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲88	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

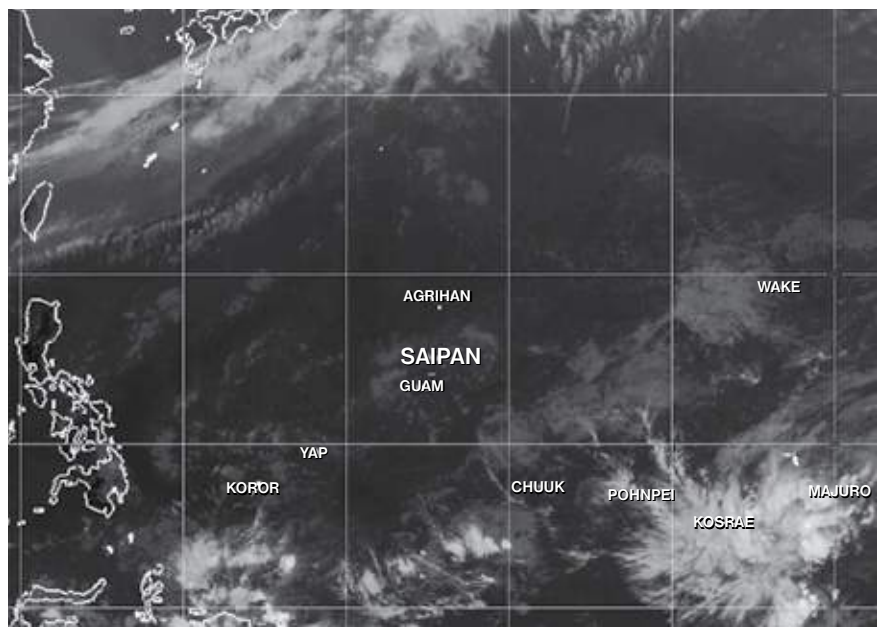
Auckland	Showers	▲66	▼53
Beijing	Cloudy	▲41	▼30
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼66
Honolulu	Showers	▲80	▼69
London	Cloudy	▲54	▼43
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼56
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼75
Melbourne	Showers	▲88	▼65
Miami	Showers	▲73	▼55
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼44
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲48	▼34
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼45
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼40
Rome	Sunny	▲58	▼37
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲56	▼35
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲66	▼48
Seoul	Snow	▲37	▼23
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲53	▼38
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼42

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:38 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:27 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:59 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:59 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 2N130E to end at EQ155E. Winds converging near the trough are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Koror and Yap or south of a line from 4N130E to 3N137E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are also found well south of Guam or south of a line from 2N140E to 5N150E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers between Chuuk and Wake Island within 150 miles of a line from 9N151E to 16N165E. A tropical disturbance is currently centered at 4N165E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over Kosrae within an area bounded by a line from 5N160E to 8N165E to 6N173E to EQ168E back to 5N160E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Thursday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:51 AM	7:31 PM
Thursday	7:29 AM	8:22 PM
Friday	8:09 AM	9:15 PM
Saturday	8:53 AM	10:10 PM
Sunday	9:43 AM	11:07 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:55am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:50am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:40pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:35pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	4:50pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL641	9:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
DL298	10:15am	2:45pm	Daily
DL287/641	5:50pm	1:35am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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Island Snapshots

ESGR AWARDEES

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

Representatives of the CNMI Public School System, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and Hollywood Theaters were present to receive the Most Supportive Employers Award in Saturday night's Guam-CNMI Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve awards banquet at the Saipan World Resort.

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

Accepting plaques for the Seven Seals Award are, from left, David Sablan, Rose Igitol, and Nathan Chargualaf during Saturday night's Guam-CNMI Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve awards banquet at the Saipan World Resort.

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

From left, Volunteer Appreciation awardees Rose Igitol and Mariano Fajardo are presented plaques during Saturday night's first Guam-CNMI Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve awards banquet at the Saipan World Resort.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

ECO KARNIVAL

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Press Secretary Angel Demapan visit one of the booths at the Saipan Community School's Eco Karnival at the Kilili Beach Park in Susupe on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Young cultural dancers invite members of the audience to perform with them at the Saipan Community School's Eco Karnival at the Kilili Beach Park in Susupe on Saturday.

Students try their luck in a game booth using used plastic containers at the Saipan Community School's Eco Karnival which highlighted the need to protect the environment by recycling.

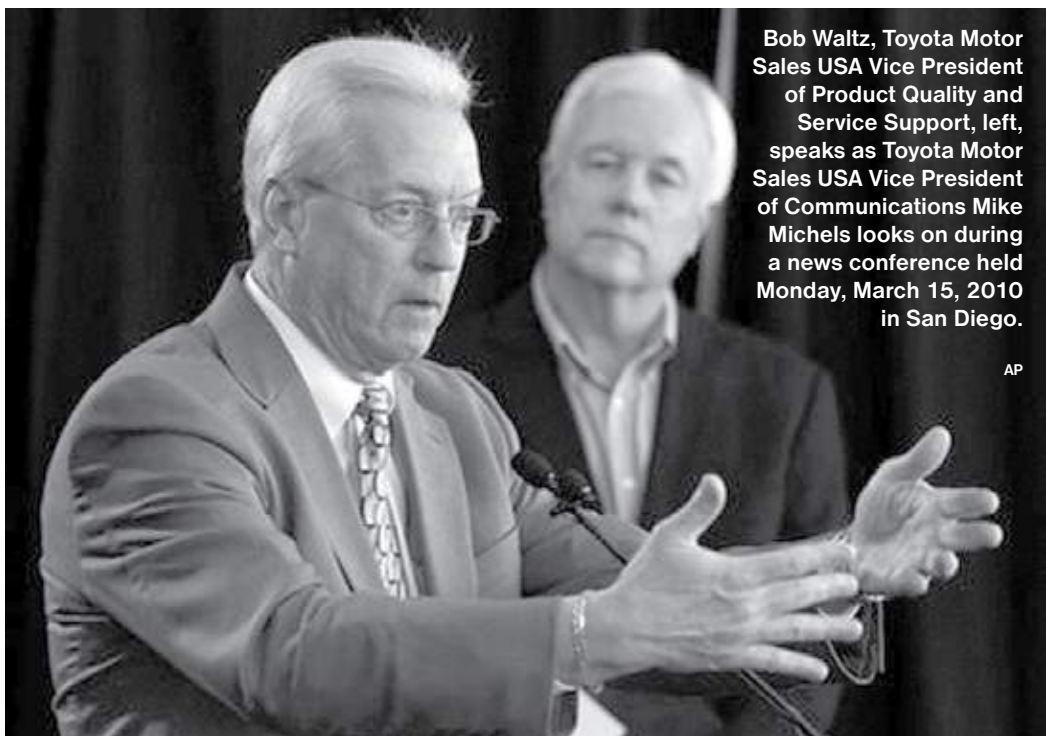
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Saipan Community School students ride bicycles adorned with recycled materials, from soda cans to plastic containers, at the well-attended Eco Karnival at the Kilili Beach Park in Susupe on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Business

Toyota dismisses account of runaway Prius



Bob Waltz, Toyota Motor Sales USA Vice President of Product Quality and Service Support, left, speaks as Toyota Motor Sales USA Vice President of Communications Mike Michels looks on during a news conference held Monday, March 15, 2010 in San Diego.

AP

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Toyota dismissed the story of a man who claimed his Prius sped out of control on the California freeway, saying Monday that its own tests found the car's gas pedal and backup safety system were working just fine.

The automaker stopped short of saying James Sikes had staged a hoax last week but said his account did not square with a series of tests it conducted on the gas-electric hybrid.

Toyota said its own testing found Sikes had rapidly pressed the gas and brakes back and forth more than 250 times. The company had no explanation for why he might do such a thing but said the car's front brakes were shot.

"We have no opinion on his account, what he's been saying, other than that the scenario is not consistent with the technical findings," spokesman Mike Michels told a press conference.

The episode March 8 was among the highest-profile headaches Toyota has suffered in recent months. It recalled more than 8 million cars and trucks worldwide because gas pedals can become stuck in the down position or be snagged by floor mats. Dozens of Toyota drivers have reported problems even after their cars were supposedly fixed.

Sikes had said his car raced to 94 mph on a freeway near San Diego. He called 911, but did not respond to instructions from the dispatcher to shut off the engine or throw the car into neutral.

Fed weighs how and when to signal higher rates

WASHINGTON (AP)—Debate is heating up within the Federal Reserve over how and when to signal that the days of record-low interest rates are numbered.

A rate hike isn't imminent. But at their meeting Tuesday, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues will likely focus on how to telegraph that higher rates are coming once the economic recovery is more deeply rooted. Eventually, Fed policymakers will need to start bumping up rates to head off inflation.

It will be a challenging maneuver. Fed officials will want to signal a move to higher rates in advance so borrowers and investors aren't jarred. And they will need to send a signal that isn't confusing.

The Fed has held rates at a record low near zero since December 2008. Bernanke and other Fed officials have said low rates are still needed to underpin economic growth.

But they need to decide whether to keep or modify their yearlong pledge to hold rates at record lows for an "extended period." Economists generally think "extended period" means at least six more months.

The Fed could drop that commitment altogether. Or it could pledge to keep rates low only for "some time" or vow to keep "policy accommodative." Or it could change its language in some other way to stress that credit will be tightened when the time is right. Any such step would signal that the days of easy money are fading.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil below $80 ahead of Fed, OPEC meetings

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices extended losses below $80 a barrel Tuesday in Asia as investors eyed meetings of the U.S. central bank and OPEC for trading catalysts. Benchmark crude for April delivery was down 10 cents to $79.70 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract slid $1.44 to settle at $79.80 on Monday. Oil prices have ricocheted between $70 and $80 for most of the last nine months as crude demand recovered from last year's global recession but remains weak in developed countries.

China trims holdings of Treasury securities

WASHINGTON (AP)—China retained its spot as the biggest foreign holder of U.S. Treasury debt in January even as it trimmed its holdings for a third straight month. The string of declines underscored worries that the U.S. government could face much higher interest rates to finance soaring budget deficits. The Treasury Department said Monday that China's holdings dipped by $5.8 billion to $889 billion in January compared with December. Japan, the second-largest foreign holder of U.S. government debt, also trimmed its holdings but by a much smaller $300 million, to $765.4 billion.

Pay czar limits exec pay at still-struggling GMAC

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration's pay czar is limiting 2010 compensation for top executives at GMAC Inc. because the auto finance giant continues to lose money and can't yet repay its $16.3 billion taxpayer bailout, according to people familiar with the negotiations. Only one of the top 25 earners at GMAC will earn more than $500,000 in cash, and CEO Michael Carpenter will receive only stock compensation and no cash, said the people, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the talks. The agreements follow months of wrangling with Kenneth Feinberg, the Treasury Department's special master for executive compensation. They reflect his concern that GMAC has no plan to return to profitability or repay its bailout.

Nation

Dems start countdown toward health care vote

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democratic congressional leaders showed signs of progress Monday in winning anti-abortion Democrats whose votes are pivotal to President Barack Obama's fiercely contested remake of the health care system.

Obama expressed optimism Congress would approve his call for affordable and nearly universal coverage as he pitched his plan on a trip to Ohio, while Republican Sen. Jim DeMint of South Carolina, among the bill's sharpest opponents, said he was "less confident" than before that it could be stopped.

"They'd have to be remarkable people not to fall under the kind of pressure they'll be under," DeMint said of rank-and-file Democrats.

The pressure was turned up Monday as the House Budget Committee, on a 21-16 vote, took an essential first step toward the House vote, which could come next weekend. Obama and his supporters labored in the capital and on Air Force One.

Rep. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, who flew with President Barack Obama, then walked into an Ohio senior citizen center with the chief executive in time to hear a voice from the audience yell out, "Vote yes."

A smiling Obama turned to the liberal lawmaker and said, "Did you hear that, Dennis?" Then, turning back to the audience, he added, "Go ahead, say that again."

"Vote yes!" came back the reply.

Kucinich, who said later he remains uncommitted, is one of 37 Democrats currently in the House who voted against Obama's legislation when it cleared the House last fall.

In addition, the White House is laboring to hold the support of several other Democrats who voted for the earlier bill, but only after first supporting strict anti-abortion limits. Those would be altered the second time around.

New HIV infections increasing among homosexuals

NEW YORK (AP)—New HIV infections are increasing among homosexuals, drug users and prostitutes who don't seek help because of laws that criminalize these practices, the head of the U.N. AIDS agency said Monday.

Michel Sidibe, the head of UNAIDS, said "it is unacceptable" that 85 countries still have laws criminalizing same sex relations among adults, including seven that impose the death penalty for homosexual practices.

He called a proposed Ugandan law that would impose the death penalty for some gays "very unfortunate" and expressed hope it will never be approved.

At a time when UNAIDS is scaling up its program and seeking universal access to HIV treatment, Sidibe said he was "very scared" because bad laws are being introduced by countries making it impossible for these at risk groups to have access to services.

"You have also a growing conservatism which is making me very scared," Sidibe added.

"We must insist that the rights of the minorities are upheld. If we don't do that ... I think the epidemic will grow again," he warned. "We cannot accept the tyranny of the majority."

Sidibe told a group of journalists at a luncheon hosted by the United Nations Foundation that in countries from China to Kenya and Malawi, about 33 percent of new HIV infections are in men having sex with men, a significant increase.

Stubborn storm darkens, floods much of Northeast

BOUND BROOK, N.J. (AP)—Torrential rains and high winds pounded the Northeast for a third day Monday, taking a heavy toll on people and property in a region that only recently restored power or finished digging out from the last of several major winter storms.

The rain and accompanying wind have toppled trees, flooded roads and forced hundreds of people to evacuate their homes. At least nine people have died in storm-related accidents, and nearly a half-million people lost power at the peak of the storm in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut.

The disruption reached the nation's capital, where high water levels caused a large barge to bump into a column supporting the 14th Street bridge, though the U.S. Coast Guard reported no damage to the bridge or barge and said the bridge was open to traffic.

The governors of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island each declared a state of emergency as the rains closed roads and spilled rivers and streams over their banks.

The National Weather Service reported wind gusts of up to 50 miles per hour that dropped more than 8 inches of rain on some areas of Massachusetts, with another inch or two expected later Monday.

In Connecticut, nearly 54,000 electrical customers remained without power, down from a high of more than 85,000, and at least three deaths in the state were associated with the storm.

ACROSS THE NATION

Plane hits, kills man along Hilton Head, SC, beach

HILTON HEAD, S.C. (AP)—An official says a plane making an emergency landing struck and killed a man who was walking or jogging along a Hilton Head, S.C., beach. A Hilton Head Island fire and rescue spokeswoman says the single-engine plane started leaking oil at about 13,000 feet and was trying to land at the local airport. Joheida (Joh-HI'-da) Fister says the oil blocked the pilot's vision and he tried to land on the beach at Palmetto Dunes late Monday afternoon. She says the pilot reported that the propeller came off the plane. She says the plane hit the man and came to rest a little farther down the beach.

Calif. man sentenced for bilking $7M from casinos

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A San Diego man who led a card-cheating ring that bilked dozens of casinos out of $7 million was sentenced Monday to nearly six years in federal prison. Phuong Quoc Truong has acknowledged leading the ring, known as the "Tran Organization," that targeted 27 casinos across the country, including three American Indian casinos near San Diego. The operation began in 2002. Truong pleaded guilty in federal court in April 2008 to racketeering conspiracy. On Monday, he was ordered to pay $5.7 million in restitution and forfeit nearly $2.8 million in fines plus two homes, property in Vietnam, a 2001 Porsche Carrera, a Rolex watch and jewelry.

Body of missing NH mother found in Maine

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—A New Hampshire woman who fled her home in a manic state, leaving her husband and young son behind, left few clues when she abandoned her car 150 miles away in another state on a highway median in a snowstorm. Police believed Sarah Rogers was likely picked up by a motorist in central Maine. But it turns out her body was nearby all along; searchers found it Saturday less than a half-mile away. Her anguished mother said Monday things might have turned out differently if police had acted swiftly on the family's warnings that Rogers was a danger to herself.

Asia

Thai protesters give blood to pour on streets

BANGKOK (AP)—Anti-government protesters started donating their own blood Tuesday as part of a plan to splatter the Thai government headquarters in a symbolic sacrifice to press their demands for new elections.

Hundreds of red-shirted demonstrators formed long lines to have their blood drawn by nurses, a day after their leaders vowed to collect 1 million cubic centimeters of blood—the equivalent of 1,000 standard soft drink bottles—to spill at Government House by Tuesday afternoon.

As many as 100,000 so-called Red Shirt protesters converged Sunday on the Thai capital to demand that Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva agree to dissolve parliament by midday Monday. Abhisit refused and blanketed the capital in security, but said his government was open to listening to what else the protesters have to say.

Frustrated, the protest leaders announced the "blood sacrifice," a tactic slammed by the Red Cross as wasteful—and unhygienic since diseases like hepatitis and HIV-AIDS can be spread if needles are reused.

"This blood belongs to fighters for democracy. What is its color? Red!" an announcer shouted as protest leaders were having their blood drawn on a stage near a white tent where lines of blood donors formed.

Several orange-robed Buddhist monks, who are forbidden by law from taking part in political activities, were among the first in line with one proudly showing off a syringe filled with his blood.

"I believe (in our leaders) and find their strategies rational and acceptable. If they say that we soldier on, I'm ready," said Suriya Laemthong, 28, who admitted to a fear of needles and shielded his eyes with a baseball cap and hand as a nurse pricked his arm. But Suriya said he doubted that the blood spilling would compel the government to step down.

The Red Shirts include supporters of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and other activists who oppose the 2006 military coup that ousted him for alleged corruption and abuse of power. They believe Abhisit came to power illegitimately with the connivance of the military and other parts of the traditional ruling class who were alarmed by Thaksin's popularity.

Trouble in Thailand

Supporters of ousted Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra have been protesting against Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, demanding that he resign and call elections.

At a glance

Population 66 million (2009 estimate); 75 percent Thai; 14 percent Chinese; 11 percent other

GDP per person $8,100; primarily industry and services

Government Constitutional monarchy

Brief history Kingdom known as Siam until 1939; bloodless revolution led to constitutional monarchy in 1932; never taken over by a European power

Yellow Shirts vs. Red Shirts Key events in current conflict

2006 Yellow Shirts protest to oust Thaksin

December 2006 Thaksin ousted in coup

December 2007 Thaksin allies win elections

September 2008 Yellow Shirts occupy buildings, clash with pro-Thaksin Red Shirts

November 2008 Yellow Shirts occupy airports

December 2008 Thaksin-allied government fails, Abhisit forms government

April 2009 Red Shirts protest ASEAN summit, clash with Yellow Shirts

March 2010 Red Shirts try to bring down government

Source: CIA World Factbook, BBC, ESRI Graphic: Pat Carr © 2010 MCT

Aide: Karzai 'very angry' at Taliban boss' arrest

KABUL (AP)—The Afghan government was holding secret talks with the Taliban's No. 2 when he was captured in Pakistan, and the arrest infuriated President Hamid Karzai, according to one of Karzai's advisers.

The detention of Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar—second in the Taliban only to one-eyed Mullah Mohammed Omar—has raised new questions about whether the U.S. is willing to back peace discussions with leaders who harbored the terrorists behind the Sept. 11 attacks.

Karzai "was very angry" when he heard that the Pakistanis had picked up Baradar with an assist from U.S. intelligence, the adviser said. Besides the ongoing talks, he said Baradar had "given a green light" to participating in a three-day peace jirga that Karzai is hosting next month.

The adviser, who had knowledge of the peace talks, spoke on condition of anonymity because of their sensitivity. Other Afghan officials, including Abdul Ali Shamsi, security adviser to the governor of Helmand province, also confirmed talks between Baradar and the Afghan government. Several media reports have suggested that Baradar had been in touch with Karzai representatives, but these are the first details to emerge from the discussions.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Vietnam releases leading dissident from prison

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam released one of its leading democracy activists from prison Monday after the dissident Catholic priest spent three years and suffered two strokes in solitary confinement, his lawyer and sister said. Authorities released Father Nguyen Van Ly from a prison near Hanoi at 4 a.m. and drove him in an ambulance back to his hometown of Hue, his sister, Nguyen Thi Hieu, told The Associated Press. "I'm very glad to see him out of prison and pleased to see that he is in better health than he was when I last saw him," Hieu said.

Fiji declares state of emergency for cyclone aid

SUVA, Fiji (AP)—Fiji declared a state of emergency Tuesday and ordered troops to launch relief operations in northern regions battered by a powerful cyclone that knocked out power and forced thousands of people to flee into shelters. Cyclone Tomas' onslaught began to weaken Tuesday, but the scope of destruction was not clear because communications were cut to the outer islands and to northern areas of Vanua Levu, the group's second-biggest island, that were hardest hit, officials said. One death has been reported, and a nationwide curfew was still in effect.

3 tigers very ill at Chinese zoo where 11 starved

BEIJING (AP)—Zookeepers are scrambling to save three seriously ill Siberian tigers at a cash-strapped zoo in northeastern China where 11 of the big cats starved to death recently. The three tigers were shedding fur, had lost their appetites and were listless, the official Xinhua News Agency reported late Monday. Eleven of the 30 Siberian tigers at the Shenyang Forest Wild Animal Zoo starved to death in the past three months, having been fed nothing but chicken bones as the facility ran into financial trouble, according to reports last week, although a zoo manager said unspecified diseases killed the animals.

World

AP

Israeli border police officers stand guard outside Damascus gate, at Jerusalem's Old City, Monday.

US Israel criticism ignites firestorm in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration's fierce denunciation of Israel last week has ignited a firestorm in Congress and among powerful pro-Israel interest groups who say the criticism of America's top Mideast ally was misplaced.

Since the controversy erupted, a bipartisan parade of influential lawmakers and interest groups has taken aim at the administration's decision to publicly condemn Israel for its announcement of new Jewish housing in east Jerusalem while Vice President Joe Biden was visiting on Tuesday and then openly vent bitter frustration on Friday.

With diplomats from both countries referring to the situation as a crisis, the outpouring of anger in the United States, particularly from Capitol Hill, comes at a difficult time for the administration, which is now trying to win support from wary lawmakers—many of whom are up for re-election this year—for health care reform and other domestic issues.

And those criticizing the administration's unusually blunt response to Israel say they fear it may have distracted from and done damage to efforts to relaunch long-stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

"It might be well if our friends in the administration and other places in the United States could start refocusing our efforts on the peace process," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said Monday.

Investigators seek motive in 3 slayings in Mexico

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—The two families climbed into white SUVs and almost simultaneously left the children's birthday party put on by the U.S. consulate. One headed deeper into one of the world's most dangerous cities, the other toward a bridge to El Paso, one of America's safest.

Neither made it.

Gunmen chased down the two vehicles and opened fire in attacks that raised the chilling prospect that Mexico's cartels have dropped any reservations about killing American officials in their battle for the multibillion-dollar U.S. drug market.

Three adults with connections to the U.S. consulate were killed, and two children were wounded.

Mexico said U.S. intelligence pointed toward the Aztecas street gang, which is aligned with the murderous Juarez drug cartel. Authorities raised the possibility that only one of the families was targeted, while the other was chased because they both drove white SUVs. They offered no details of this theory.

Authorities in both countries said they don't know yet why the families were attacked.

WORLD BRIEFS

Haiti leaders rush to finish post-quake proposal

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Haiti's government and business community are finalizing details of a reconstruction plan that economists say could cost nearly $14 billion. Haitian Chamber of Commerce President Reginald Boulos says he told the prime minister and international financiers at a meeting Monday that the private sector's earthquake losses alone totaled more than $2 billion. Inter-American Development Bank economist Ericq Pierre says no definitive total was agreed on Monday. The bank estimates Haiti's total damage from the Jan. 12 quake between $8.1 billion and $13.9 billion.

Irish Catholic leader won't quit for abuse coverup

DUBLIN (AP)—Ireland's senior Roman Catholic, Cardinal Sean Brady, said Monday he would not resign despite admitting he helped the church collect evidence against a child-molesting priest—and never told police about the crimes. Brady, as a priest and Vatican-trained canon lawyer in 1975, said he interviewed two children about the abuse they suffered at the hands of the Rev. Brendan Smyth. He said both children were required to sign oaths promising not to tell anyone outside the church of their allegations. Smyth went on to molest and rape scores of other children in Ireland, Britain and the United States before British authorities in neighboring Northern Ireland demanded his arrest in 1994. The Irish government of the day collapsed amid acrimony over why Smyth was not quickly extradited to Belfast.

German diocese suspends convicted sex abuser

BERLIN (AP)—A German archdiocese that Pope Benedict XVI oversaw from 1977 to 1982 said Monday that a priest convicted in 1986 of sexually abusing children has been suspended for violating a condition that he have no contact with minors. The disclosure came as the church is grappling with claims by about 300 Germans who have alleged this year that priests sexually or physically abused them in church-run boarding schools and other institutions. The Archdiocese of Munich and Freising said in a statement Monday that it had removed the German priest, identified only as Rev. H., from his duties after "it was proved he did not comply with the conditions set following allegations of sexually abusing minors and a conviction in the justice system."

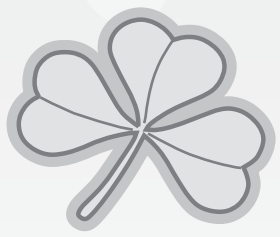
Focus

By HEIDI STEVENS
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

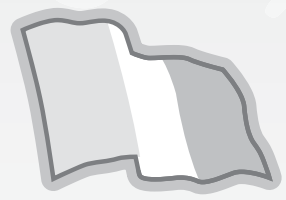
Shamrocks, saint and shillelaghs

St. Patrick's Day, celebrated on March 17, honors Ireland's legendary patron saint, who died on that day in 461.

Shamrock
Small, three-leafed plant appears on U.K.'s coat of arms with English rose, Scottish thistle



Irish flag
Green represents Catholics; orange, Protestants; white, the wish for harmony



Leprechauns
Fairies who work day and night mending shoes of other fairies

Shillelagh
(shi-lay'-lee)
Walking stick; Irish for stout oak club or cudgel; also a forest that once stood in County Wicklow

Patrick: Saint and legend

387 A.D. Born in Britain to a Roman family; his father served as a magistrate; his original name was Maewyn

Early 400s Taken to Ireland as a slave; after six years, he escaped to France where he studied for priesthood

432 Sent to Ireland as a Christian missionary by Pope Celestine I, who named him Patricius, which means noble in Latin; he introduced Roman alphabet, Latin literature; Christianized the land

Familiar legend
He drove the snakes from Ireland by beating a drum

Source: "Shamrocks, Harps and Shillelaghs" by Edna Barth, "All About American Holidays," World Book

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Let St. Patrick's Day launch your family's cultural IQ

If St. Patrick's Day means little more than displaying the shamrocks your child lovingly crafted during art class, it may be time to up your global smarts.

You don't have to be Irish to celebrate the day, any more than you have to be Italian to enjoy tiramisu—or, for that matter, celebrate St. Joseph's Day on March 19. By searching for ways to connect with other cultures, during their holidays and throughout the year, you can help your kids become tolerant, curious and open-minded.

"We have family values of honesty, trustworthiness, generosity, respect," says Homa Sabet Tavangar, author of "Growing Up Global: Raising Children to Be at Home in the World" (Ballantine). "Another is being a global citizen, where you appreciate what all these different cultures around you bring and you're always learning and it's always an adventure."

Of course, if you have Irish roots, now is a great time to explore them. Frank Crowley, school director at the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago, suggests introducing children to Irish culture through the arts. Crowley's parents—from the north of Ireland—surrounded him and his six siblings with Irish music, Irish dancing and "the most outstanding" soda bread, he recalls.

"I became interested in jazz at a young age," Crowley says. "Later I saw how Irish music fit into jazz—as well as folk, classical and a broad spectrum of music. It made me appreciate my own cultural traditions."

Just the kind of connection Tavangar touts in "Growing Up Global," which contains dozens of activities, games, movies and other options for families to expand their cultural awareness.

"It should always be fun. It should never feel like homework," Tavangar says. "If it's like, 'Oh, this is culturally appropriate,' kids smell that from a mile away."

Several ideas from Tavangar:

■ **Learn through language.** Start with the language of your ancestors, or pick one at random. "Look up basic expressions and try them out at the dinner table," Tavangar suggests. Or pick some key words, "even if it's learning how to say something mundane or silly like 'toilet' in five languages."

■ **Watch foreign films.** With kids, really? Yes, Tavangar swears. She came up with an "Essential 7" list, suitable for children age 6 and up. It includes "Beauty and the Beast" (the original 1946 French version); "Spirited Away" (a Japanese story that won best animated feature at the 2003 Oscars); and "The Secret of Roan Inish" (about a 10-year-old girl who goes to live with her grandparents in a small fishing village in Ireland).

■ **Party globally.** Go beyond the usual character-themed birthday parties, encouraging your kids to think bigger: Cinco de Mayo, Bastille Day, Chinese New Year, Brazil's Carnival. Plan the games and food and favors accordingly.

■ **Try new foods.** Start with bread, "a common, delicious comfort food spanning cultures." Tavangar recommends reading "Everybody Bakes Bread," by Norah Dooley, noting the diverse characters eating Jewish challah, coconut bread from Barbados, Indian chapati bread, Lebanese pitas, cornbread from South Carolina and Italian sweet bread. Then introduce new breads at your meals. "Begin with peanut butter and jelly on a tortilla or pita bread," Tavangar says. "Work your way up to pumpernickel or seeded breads, flavored naans and scooping stews with various flatbreads."

■ **Reach out to the elderly.** Whether visiting an assisted-living facility or connecting with elderly relatives, start a dialogue between your kids and a generation of people who remember a very different world than the one we currently inhabit. "Just ask them what their childhood was like," Tavangar recommends. "They can tell their own experience of living in another country or talk about the recollections their grandparents used to share with them. It strengthens family bonds, it strengthens community bonds. You're globally oriented, but you're also locally rooted."

■ **Go find Ireland on a globe.** (Get a globe if you don't have one—another of Tavangar's tips.) Download some Irish music. Blast it in the kitchen while you're baking Irish soda bread. Cap off the evening with a screening of "Secret of Roan Inish." And go to bed dreaming of the next culture you'll explore.

Shamrock or blarney?

An Irish shamrock is a wildflower, but the ones sold in U.S. flower shops are often imposters, clover-like sorrels easily grown in greenhouses.

'Original' Irish shamrock

"Shamrock" comes from the Irish "seamrog" or little clover

- Probably closest to today's ***trifolium repens*** (white clover), which originated in Europe
- **May have a triangular mark** (a crescent or watermark) on upper surface
- White flowers, sometimes with pink hue

Familiar shamrock

Oxalis acetosella (wood sorrel) is a variety sold often for St. Patrick's Day

- **Three heart-shaped leaflets;** easily mistaken for clover, but leaves are paler green, softer
- **Fold easily at midrib;** many plants fold leaves up at night
- White or pink flowers

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Why shamrocks?
According to legend, St. Patrick used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity to Christian converts in Ireland

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of Vermont, Peterson Field Guides: Wildflowers

Irish baby names

In light of St. Patrick's Day, the top 10 names for children in Ireland in 2008:

	Boys	Girls
1	Jack	Ava
2	Sean	Katie
3	Conor	Sarah
4	Daniel	Emma
5	James	Emily
6	Ryan	Sophie
7	Adam	Grace
8	Dylan	Aoife
9	Luke	Chloe
10	Alex	Kate

© 2010 MCT
Source: Central Statistics Office Ireland
Graphic: Anna Eisenberg

Campus Life

Grace Christian students shine in PGFC regional tilt

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Grace Christian Academy students pose for a winning shot after the Regional Primary Grade Forensic Conference, held March 6, 2010, at Kagman Elementary School.

Grace Christian Academy students shone in this year's CNMI Primary Grades Forensic Conference regional competition, held March 6, 2010, at Kagman Elementary School, winning numerous gold, silver, and bronze medals and ribbons.

The school said its students are becoming more vibrant and confident as they speak in front of their classmates during practices and in front of audience during the actual competition. Students also showed more love and interest in reading and reciting their piece with expression.

A job well done to all the participants and congratulations to all the winners, the school said. GCA also thanks parents for their partnership with the teachers and administration in supporting this event.

MEDAL (FINAL) ROUNDS

K-2 Division

Impromptu Speaking
Tae Yong Kim, 1st Place Gold medal
Arvin Dayao, 2nd Place Silver medal
Jim Michael Ham, 3rd Place Bronze medal
Robert Hanrey Schorr, 4th Place ribbon
Joshua Elijah Pajarillaga, 5th Place ribbon

Readers Forum
Matt Jason Moran, 1st Place Gold Medal

3-5 Division

Dramatic Interpretation
Yasmin Angela Marcelo, 3rd Place Bronze medal
Tiffany Madlambayan, 5th Place ribbon

Humorous Interpretation
Cameron Boyer, 3rd Place Bronze medal

Impromptu Speaking
Veeny France Revilla, 2nd Place Silver medal
Francis Joseph Dalusung, 3rd Place Bronze medal

Readers Forum
Yujin Lee, 1st Place Gold medal
Claudilyn Lacbayo, 2nd Place Silver medal

Readers Forum Semi-finals Winners

K-2 Division

RF Semi-finals A
Matt Jason Moran, 2nd Place

RF Semi-finals B
Heather Angel Pangilinan, 4th Place

3-5 Division

RF Semi-finals A
Yujin Lee, 2nd Place
Cameron Boyer, 4th Place

RF Semi-finals B
Claudilyn Lacbayo, 2nd Place

FLIGHT (First Round) RESULTS

K-2 Division

Impromptu Speaking A
Arvin Dayao, 1st Place
Robert Hanrey Schorr, 2nd Place
Joshua Elijah Pajarillaga, 3rd Place

Impromptu Speaking B
Jim Michael Ham, 1st Place
Tae Yong Kim, 2nd Place
Matt Jason Moran, 3rd Place

Readers Forum B
Matt Jason Moran, 3rd Place
Arvin Dayao, 4th Place

Readers Forum C
Heather Angel Pangilinan, 2nd Place
Riley Anne Buenaventura, 3rd Place

3-5 Division

Dramatic Interpretation A
Yasmin Angela Marcelo, 2nd Place
Franchesca Dalusung , 3rd Place
Alfie Madlambayan, 5th Place

Dramatic Interpretation B
Tiffany Madlambayan, 3rd Place

Humorous Interpretation A
Cameron Boyer, 3rd Place
Maia Magdalena Pangelinan, 5th Place

Humorous Interpretation B
Tiffany Madlambayan, 5th Place

Impromptu Speaking A
Dianne Doris Arnold, 4th Place

Impromptu Speaking B
Veeny France Revilla, 1st Place
Francis Joseph Dalusung, 2nd Place
Art Matthew Mamaril, 4th Place

Readers Forum A
Cameron Boyer, 1st Place

Readers Forum B
Veeny France Revilla, 3rd Place

Readers Forum D
Francis Joseph Dalusung, 2nd Place
Yasmin Angela Marcelo, 3rd Place
Audrey Yue, 5th Place

Readers Forum E
Claudilyn Lacbayo, 1st Place
Jillian Cyril Salcedo, 4th Place

Readers Forum F
Yujin Lee, 2nd Place
Aileen Camille Dimaano, 3rd Place

Readers Forum H
Catrina Jean Pantaleon, 1st Place

Choral Speaking B
Dianne Arnold, 4th Place
Jae Lee, 4th Place
Art Matthew Mamaril, 4th Place
Catrina Jean Pantaleon, 4th Place

GCA PGFC volunteer judges
Rose Shirata
Mirasol Dayao
Heather Linday

Teachers/coaches
Melissa Harper, K4/5
Leah Garfil, 1st Grade
Kelly Dawe, 2nd Grade
Estrella Samonte, 3rd Grade
Maricel Hoffa, 4th Grade
Esther Manzano, 5th Grade

GCA PGFC coordinator,
Esther Manzano
Discipline officer,
Heather Linday
Principal,
Marsha Owens

KAG-ES CHAMPS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Picture shows the top three students from Kagman Elementary School who competed in the Chamorro Language competition in Guam on March 9, 2010. Congratulations to Thomas Agulto, Kieth Villagomez for finishing 3rd place, and Benen Iguel for finishing 2nd in the competition. Others in the picture are KagES principal Ignacia T. Demapan, coach Senora Kinai Chong and proud parents Elaine Iguel, Gary Villagomez and Evelyn Agulto.

...as did Calvary Christian students

Calvary Christian Academy also had its share of medalists at this year's CNMI Primary Grades Forensic Conference regional competition on March 6, 2010, at Kagman Elementary School

Humorous Interpretation (Grade 3 to 5)
Gold Medal - Minna Ito, 5th Grade
Silver Medal - Yuuki Nishida, 4th Grade
4th Place - Melody Woo, 3rd Grade

Readers Forum (Grade 3 to 5)
Bronze Medal - Yuuki Nishida, 4th Grade

Humorous Interpretation (Grade K to 2)
Silver Medal - Holly Liban, 1st Grade

Dramatic Interpretation (Grade K to 2)
Gold Medal - Holly Liban, 1st Grade

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Yuuki Nishida, Minna Ito, and Melody Woo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Minna Ito, Holly Liban, and, Yuuki Nishida.

Life & Style

Boston art heist rattles investigators 20 years on

BOSTON (AP)—It remains the most tantalizing art heist mystery in the world.

In the early hours of March 18, 1990, two thieves walked into Boston's elegant Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum disguised as police officers and bound and gagged two guards using handcuffs and duct tape. For the next 81 minutes, they sauntered around the ornate galleries, removing masterworks including those by Rembrandt, Vermeer, Degas and Manet, cutting some of the largest pieces from their frames.

By the time they disappeared, they would be credited with the largest art theft in history, making off with upward of a half-billion dollars in loot far too hot to sell.

Now, 20 years later, investigators are making a renewed push to recover the paintings. The FBI has resubmitted DNA samples for updated testing, the museum is publicizing its $5 million, no-questions-asked reward, and the U.S. attorney's office is offering immunity.

Two billboards on Interstates 93 and 495 are also advertising the reward.

"Our priority is to get the paintings back," U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz said. "If someone had information or had possession of the paintings, immunity from prosecution is negotiable."

Investigators say they've largely ruled out some of the more popular theories, from the specter of a recluse billionaire art collector to the hand of notorious Boston gangster Whitey Bulger.

More likely, investigators say, the two were homegrown thieves with knowledge of the museum's security system—including the absence of a dead man's switch that would have alerted police once the guards became incapacitated. They might have even underestimated the breathtaking scope of their crime.

"I picture the thieves waking up the next morning and looking in the papers and saying, 'We just pulled off the largest art theft in history,'" said Anthony Amore, the museum's security director.

The theft began around 1:24 a.m. when the two white men—one in his late 20s to mid-30s, the other in his early to mid-30s—overpowered the guards, according to an FBI report.

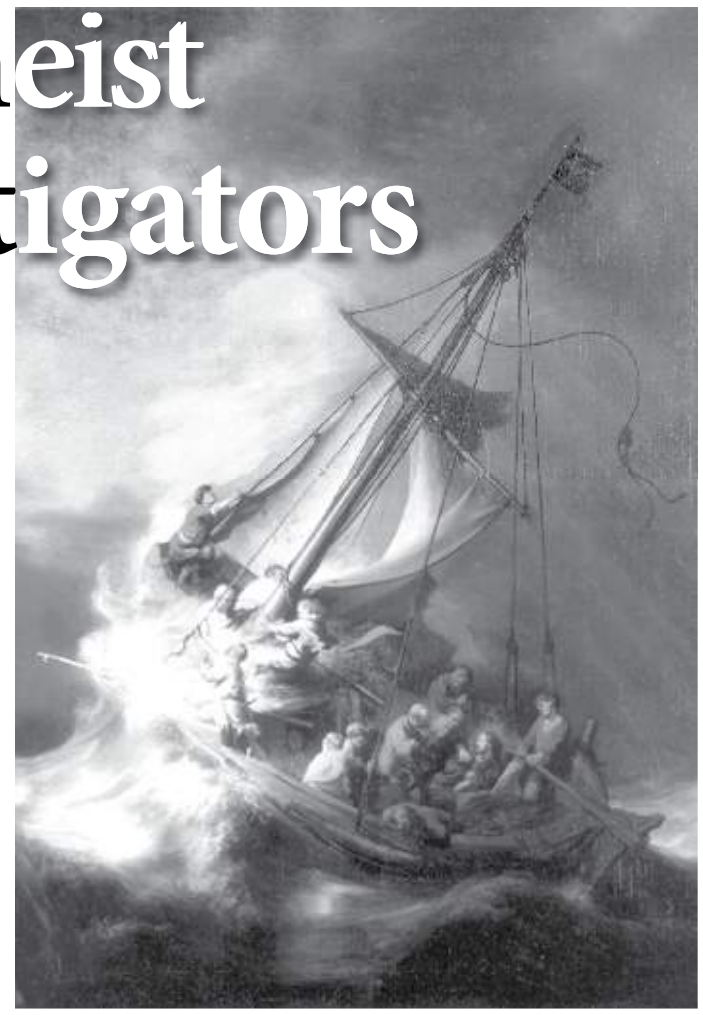
The two took their time. A full 24 minutes passed before they were first picked up on a motion detector entering the museum's second floor Dutch room, where the most valuable paintings were seized.

Investigators believe the first nabbed was Rembrandt's iconic "Storm on the Sea of Galilee," measuring about 5-by-4 feet and dating to 1633. The frame was laid on the floor where one of the thieves neatly sliced it from its frame.

AP

This undated photograph released by the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum shows the etching "Self-Portrait" by Rembrandt, which was one of more than a dozen works of art burglars stole during a 1990 heist in Boston.

Next was "Landscape with an Obelisk" by Govaert Flinck. Other stolen masterpieces included a second Rembrandt also cut from its frame, "A Lady and Gentleman in Black" from 1633.



AP

This undated photograph released by the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum shows the painting "The Storm on the Sea of Galilee" by Rembrandt, which was one of more than a dozen works of art burglars stole during a 1990 heist in Boston.

The most valuable piece was Vermeer's "The Concert," an oil painting measuring about 2 1/2-by-2 feet from 1660—one of only 36 known works by the Dutch master and valued at more than $250 million, Amore said.

A Rembrandt self-portrait from 1629—one of the museum's most valuable paintings—was removed from the wall, but then left untouched while one of the crooks patiently unscrewed and removed from its frame a tiny Rembrandt etching slightly larger than a postage stamp.

It was the first of many odd twists investigators have puzzled over as they mapped the route the thieves using motion detector records.

After the heavier works of art were removed from the walls, the thief in charge—possibly the older of the two—might have let the other thief take what he wanted.

Amore believes the second thief found his way to a nearby gallery, lifting smaller Degas drawings of horses while passing up more valuable works of art including one by the Italian painter Botticelli.

The thieves also tried to remove a flag of Napoleon's First Regiment from its frame before giving up and making off with a bronze finial in the shape of an eagle from atop the flag—ignoring more valuable letters with Napoleon's signature.

Then came a final puzzle.

The thieves found their way to a gallery on the first floor, again passing more valuable works of arts, to seize a "Chez Tortoni," a Manet painting of a man in a top hat and a departure from the Dutch paintings—all without triggering a motion detector.

"If we ever speak to the thieves, which is secondary, I would like to say, 'Why did you take that? Why did you pass by the Raphael?'" Amore said.

On their way out, the two thieves smashed their way into the security office and snatched the only visual record of their crime—a VHS tape.

In all, 13 works disappeared.

FBI agent Geoffrey Kelly, who has led the investigation for eight years, said it's unlikely the thieves destroyed the art.

"If it were any other kind of commodity, I might feel pessimistic about recovery, but with art it's not uncommon to stay missing for long periods of time," he said. "It's one of the most interesting novels you could write, except it's missing that last chapter."

For those drawn to what happened that March night, the lure of the theft won't fade.

Ulrich Boser, author of "The Gardner Heist" and a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, said he's convinced the paintings were taken by burglars involved in Boston's organized crime rackets in the 1980s. He said the thieves might have subsequently lost possession of the works.

"For the most part, thieves steal these works because it's easy to do and they're worth a lot of money, and then they become too hot," he said. "You can't sell them on eBay. You can't bring them into an auction house."

Amore said he won't stop until the paintings again fill the empty frames still hanging in the museum's galleries.

"I don't have any doubt we are going to recover them," he said. "There's nothing we're not doing."

Memorial Eucharist Service

Beatrice Borja Peredo Troup

Familian Dasu

All family and friends are cordially invited to attend a Memorial Eucharist Service to celebrate her life.

The service will be held on Saturday, March 20th at 9:00am at the Saipan Community Church in Susupe.

Daughter of †Angelina Borja Peredo and †Jesus Taitano Pinuala

Survived by:

Her Husband: Mike Troup

Their Children and Spouses: Cirela and Jose Villagomez (Max)
Sonia And Hilbert San Nicholas (Brittany and Hilbert II)
Ken Taitano (Joe Brandon, Bianca, and Jonathon)
William Troup

Her brothers and sisters: Ana and Vic Vergerra (Pennysylvania)
Susana Rios and Mike Tokyo (Saipan)
Rosa Rios (Saipan)
Armando and Sarah Villafuerte (California)
Julius and Bessie Villafuerte (California)
Chris and Mely Villafuerte (Saipan)
Dorothy and Dana Kurtz (Colorado)

Special Friends: Antonio Aguon
Vic Dukor

Thank you and Si Yuus Maase
Mike Troup and Family

AP

In this Feb. 3, 2010 photo provided by GQ, Rielle Hunter holds Frances Quinn, her 2-year-old daughter fathered by John Edwards, at her home in Charlotte, N.C.

Edwards mistress: Still in love, living 'truth'

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—The mistress of former presidential candidate John Edwards says she is helping him live "a life of truth" and the two remain in love even after their affair helped trigger his downfall from the pinnacle of U.S. politics.

"Everyone talks about how Johnny has fallen from grace," Rielle Hunter told GQ magazine in an interview released Monday. "In reality, he's fallen to grace."

In her first public comments since she became known as Edwards' other woman in 2008, Hunter didn't provide any details of their status but said Edwards is a great father who wants to be there full-time for their daughter, now 2.

"I know he loves me. I have never had any doubt at all about that," Hunter said. "We love each other very much. And that hasn't changed, and I believe that will be till death do us part."

Hunter also posed for photos for GQ that show her on a bed, barelegged in a man's white dress shirt and a pearl necklace. In another shot, she's lying on her back holding her daughter in her arms.

She said she and Edwards had an immediate connection when they met at a New York City hotel in 2006, and she said she knew then that she was a special person to him.

"He in fact did say to me the first night, 'Falling in love with you could really (expletive) up my plans for becoming president,'" she said.

Hunter said she told him he shouldn't run for the White House and suggested he at least wait until April 2007 because her intuition and astrology suggested he would have a difficult first three months of the year. Elizabeth Edwards' cancer returned in March of that year. Hunter said John Edwards wanted to exit the race but that Elizabeth Edwards wanted him to stay in.

"And my surprise was that they stayed in the race," Hunter said. "I was shocked. I really viewed it as reckless."

Hunter said Edwards' marriage was already in shambles before their romance, declaring, "I was not the home wrecker." She said people were wrong to believe Edwards had fallen because of the affair and its revelation.

Instead, "I think that he thinks that he is a much wiser and a much better and a more truthful and a more integrated human being," she said.

John and Elizabeth Edwards are now separated. Hunter said the affair ended in July 2008 and that the relationship is now something "different."

Edwards hired Hunter to work as a campaign videographer in 2006 as he plotted his second run for president. The former North Carolina senator's political action committee paid her video production firm more than $100,000.

Federal investigators have been looking into Edwards' campaign finances, with former aide Andrew Young saying a grand jury questioned him for hours about the large sums of money that changed hands during the period that he helped cover up the affair.

Hunter said the grand jury questioned her about Young and about her relationship with Edwards.

"They asked a lot of questions about the sex tape," she said. Hunter has sued Young for invasion of privacy, seeking the return of a videotape that he describes as Edwards and Hunter in a sexual encounter.

Young said in a statement Monday that he has a lot of empathy for what Hunter is going through.

"I hope she and Johnny and Elizabeth and their families can find happiness so that we all can move on with our lives," he said.

An attorney for Hunter declined to comment, and a spokeswoman for John Edwards said he would not comment. An attorney for Elizabeth Edwards did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

ESPN reporter's stalker gets 2 1/2 years in prison

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An Illinois insurance executive who secretly shot nude videos of ESPN reporter Erin Andrews was sentenced Monday to 2 1/2 years in prison after giving a tearful apology that was harshly rebuked by his victim.

Michael David Barrett pleaded guilty in December to interstate stalking after prosecutors accused him of following the reporter to at least three cities and shooting the videos through hotel peepholes.

Barrett, 48, of suburban Chicago, agreed to a 27-month prison sentence after pleading guilty but it was up to the judge to decide how long he would actually serve.

Andrews urged the judge at the hearing for a harsher sentence and said she fears for her life every time she enters a hotel.

"You violated me and you violated all women," Andrews told Barrett. "You are a sexual predator, a sexual deviant and they should lock you up."

After the sentencing, she said, "Thirty months isn't enough."

Barrett admitted renting hotel rooms next to Andrews three times and shooting two videos of her while she was naked. He was accused of posting the videos online and trying to sell them to Los Angeles-based celebrity gossip site TMZ last year.

U.S. District Judge Manuel Real said he gave Barrett the maximum sentence under the law.

"The victim, Andrews, will be suffering with this problem for the rest of her life," Real said. "There is no life sentence that can be imposed upon him, except his own guilt."

Barrett cried as he addressed Andrews in court, saying he would spend the rest of his life regaining the respect of his friends and family and atoning for his mistakes.

"There are no words to tell Ms. Andrews how sorry I am for what I've done to her," he said. "I hope someday she can forgive me."

Andrews, visibly nervous as she spoke, said she had no sympathy for Barrett's claim he was publicly humiliated.

"It's my body on the Internet," she said. "I'm being traumatized every single day for what he did. ... This will never be over for me."

Barrett, who has until May 3 to surrender, was ordered to have supervised probation for three years after his release, during which he will be prohibited from contacting Andrews, her family or friends.

He will not be allowed to stay in a hotel without approval of a probation officer and if he accepts employment somewhere, Andrews will be notified. Barrett was also ordered to pay $5,000 in fines and $7,366 in restitution, but the judge said further restitution may be imposed to compensate ESPN.

Barrett's lawyer, David Willingham, said his client is undergoing psychological treatment and "has sought the path of redemption."

"Mr. Barrett has lost everything he built throughout his life," Willingham said. "He's lost his career, his fiancee and his life savings. He knows that he brought this on himself."

Federal prosecutors in Los Angeles have agreed not to pursue further charges against Barrett. However, he could face criminal action in other states stemming from other videos he allegedly shot of unsuspecting nude women through peepholes.

Andrews' attorney, Marshall Grossman, has said there could be as many as a dozen other women that Barrett taped.

A sentencing memo filed last month in federal court says Barrett uploaded videos of 16 other women to an online account.

Barrett also allegedly conducted 30 Internet background checks that can produce birthdays and home addresses, the document said. The filing did not name the other alleged victims or say what information he obtained or how he may have used it.

AP

ESPN reporter Erin Andrews grimaces as she comments on the sentence of her stalker outside the U.S. District Court in downtown Los Angeles on Monday, March 15, 2010.

In Celebration of her new life

MARIA SALAS CAMACHO VAUGHN

"MARIA-N MANG"

Born to life on February 13, 1936. Called to eternal life on March 10, 2010

In her new life she now joins her:

Parents: Juan Taimanao Camacho & Maria Rabago Salas-Camacho (Maria-n Mang)
Spouse: Captain George N.M. Vaughn
Brothers: Vicente Salas Palacios (yan Isabel), Jose Salas Palacios (yan Didang)
Sons: Anthony Salas Camacho "Tonchi", Vernon Camacho Vaughn
Grandson: Jarrett Trent Maha'a
Brother-in-law: Fred Nosek

Her memories will live in the hearts of her:

Children/ Spouses/ Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren:

Juan S. & Dolores C. Camacho: (Darrin Butteris & Doris Guerrero (Devon, Desmond, & Dakota), Liela C. & Dante Yumul (Ayden Sean), Peter Camacho & Eva P. Calvo (Peter Ryan, Edward John, Deion Xavier, & Danika Shaye), Nasia Camacho & Craig Sanchez (Yvannah Maria & Savannah Margarita), & Juan C. Camacho Jr.

Georgia C. Vaughn: Calvin Daniel Burrage & Brianna Christina Burrage (Aioni Rena)

George C. & Joanne Vaughn: Lauren & Scott Russell (Wyatt Riley), Nolan Daniel Vaughn, & Haley Marie Vaughn

Johanna Vaughn & Baldwin Badiango: Luise & Patrick Sanchez (Zoe Rae, Tihanna, Patrick Jr., & Vaughn Joseph), Merced Johanna Villagomez, & Joseph Manuel Villagomez

Maryann C. Vaughn & Rie Cabrera: Shantel Santos & Jonathan Sanchez (Ave'ah Lashea, Devye Jon, Tae'ah Deshea, & Tiah'Dea Teshea) & Robert Fernandez Jr.

Annabelle C. Vaughn & Jeannot Maha'a: Kayleen & Joey Flores (Joleen, Francisca, Kayleana, Joziah, & Kaileah), Jacoby Travis Maha'a, & Jeannot Maha'a Jr.

Candice B. & Jose A. Ananich: Drake Richard Torres, Thomas John Ananich, & Tatiana Monique Ananich

Grandson: **Jeffrey Camacho**

Brothers/Sisters & In-Laws:

Antonio Salas Camacho/ Elphidia P. Camacho & Kids
Juan Salas Camacho (yan Josephine) & Kids
Carmen Salas Camacho-Nosek & Kids
Luis Salas Camacho/ Fermina M. Camacho & Kids

**** Additionally survived by numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.**

Daily mass is being offered at Kristo Rai Parish in Garapan at 6:00 a.m. Rosary is being held nightly at the Kristo Rai Parish at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, March 20, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz in Garapan to the Kristo Rai Parish. Final viewing will be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:00 p.m. followed by Interment at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you and Si Yuus Ma'ase From the family

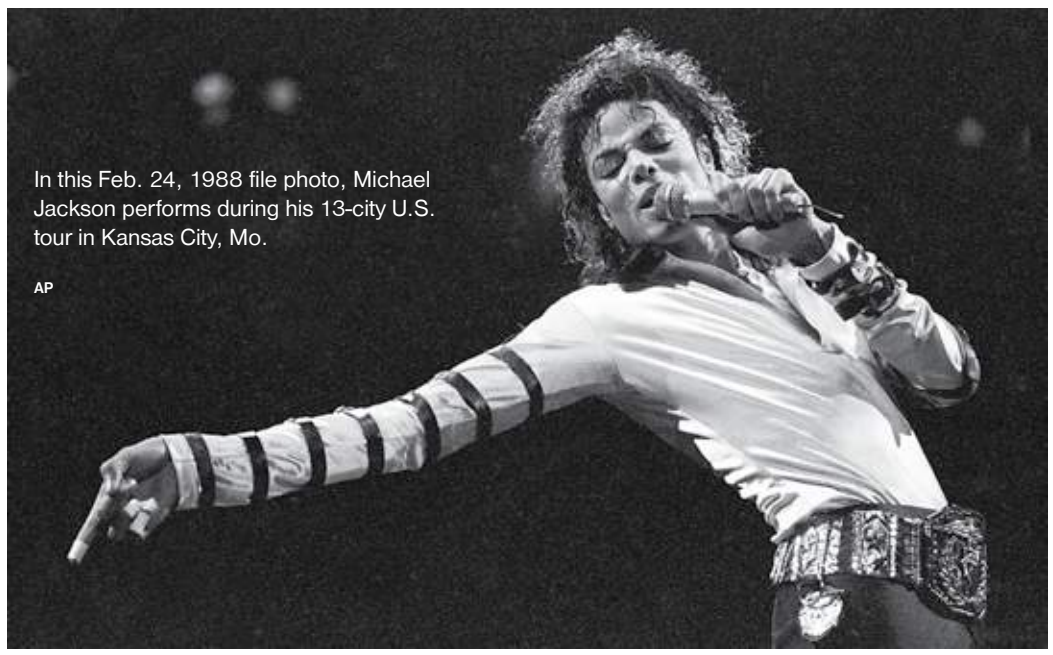
Jackson estate in record deal worth up to $250M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The estate of Michael Jackson has landed the late King of Pop the biggest recording deal in history: a $200 million guaranteed contract with Sony Music Entertainment for 10 projects over seven years, according to a person familiar with the deal.

The record-breaking contract through 2017 could be worth up to $250 million if certain conditions are met. One of the albums will be of never-before-released Jackson recordings that will come out in November, the person said.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the official announcement is expected Tuesday.

Future projects may also include a video game, a DVD compilation of videos and a re-release of "Off the Wall," Jackson's fifth studio album, which first came out in 1979, accompanied by some unreleased material. Before his sudden death in June at age 50, the pop star had wanted to re-issue the album, people familiar with the deal said.



In this Feb. 24, 1988 file photo, Michael Jackson performs during his 13-city U.S. tour in Kansas City, Mo.

AP

One of the projects already counted in the contract was the two-disc album that accompanied "This Is It," the film based on footage of concert rehearsals for what was to have been Jackson's comeback at London's O2 arena.

Including the more than 5 million copies of that special release, Jackson has sold some 31 million albums since his death in June, about two-thirds of them outside the United States.

"During his life, Michael's contracts set the standard for the industry," said John Branca, the co-administrator of the Jackson estate, in a statement prepared for release Tuesday. "By all objective criteria, this agreement with Sony Music demonstrates the lasting power of Michael's music by exceeding all previous industry benchmarks."

Rob Stringer, chairman of Sony Music's Columbia Epic Label Group, said in prepared remarks, "We're dedicated to protecting this icon's legacy and we're thrilled that we can continue to bring his music to the world for the foreseeable future."

The landmark deal is worth more than all other benchmarks, such as the all-encompassing rights deals that concert promoter and ticket-seller Live Nation Entertainment Inc. had previously signed with Madonna at $120 million and Jay-Z for $150 million.

The deal with Jackson's estate is even more remarkable because it does not include royalties from merchandise.

The contract shows the value of legacy artists. It also comes at a time of decline for the music industry, with sales down about half from their peak in 2000 mainly due to free file-swapping.

The money will go a long way to settling Jackson's debts, estimated at around $400 million at the time of his death.

The singer whose life was plagued with scandal has had a resurgence in popularity in death.

Distribution rights for "This Is It" were sold to Sony Pictures, another unit of Sony Corp., for $60 million and the movie went on to gross $252 million worldwide, the most of any concert film ever.

Revenue from that, song sales and merchandising agreements brought into the estate revenues of about $100 million, lawyers for the estate's administrators told a Los Angeles Superior Court judge in December, when they sought a percentage as an administration fee.

The Walt Disney Co. even brought back the 17-minute Jackson movie "Captain EO" to its Disneyland theme park in Anaheim last month. The original began running at the park in 1986 but was pulled in 1997.

Jackson's most lasting and valuable asset is the 50 percent stake in Sony/ATV Music Publishing, a company that owns publishing rights to music by The Beatles and numerous other artists, including Elvis Presley and Bob Dylan. The copyright catalog itself is estimated to be worth $2 billion.

The new financial windfall comes even as circumstances around his death remain in legal limbo.

Dr. Conrad Murray faces an involuntary manslaughter charge for allegedly giving Jackson a lethal combination of sedatives. He is due back in a Los Angeles court April 5.

Sheen pleads not guilty in domestic violence case

ASPEN, Colo. (AP)—Actor Charlie Sheen pleaded not guilty to domestic violence charges on Monday, nearly three months after his wife told Colorado police in a 911 call he put a knife to her throat and threatened to kill her.

Sheen showed little emotion and said nothing during his brief arraignment in Pitkin County District Court. The plea was entered by Richard Cummins, a Colorado attorney who represents Sheen.

No new details emerged about the Dec. 25 incident.

The star of "Two and a Half Men" on CBS is charged with menacing, criminal mischief and assault. Menacing, the most serious charge, carries a possible sentence of one to three years in prison.

Sheen

A judge scheduled a jury trial for July 21.

Sheen is accused of assaulting Brooke Mueller Sheen at an Aspen home while they were on vacation. Charlie Sheen told police they were arguing but denied threatening to kill her.

In court, Sheen wore a black suit, white shirt and black tie. He chatted with a deputy and sipped water from a cup before the hearing started.

Afterward, he walked a few steps to the prosecution table and shook hands with Deputy District Attorney Arnold Mordkin.

Sheen, Cummins and attorney Steve Cochran of Los Angeles did not comment as they left the courtroom.

"I think the plea speaks for itself," Cummins later said by phone.

Stan Rosenfield, Sheen's agent, said, "Charlie is looking forward to the opportunity to clear his name."

It wasn't clear if a plea deal had been ruled out. Before the hearing, Mordkin said, "We always remain open. You never know."

Defense lawyers didn't address the issue.

Brooke Sheen told police her husband threatened her after she told him she wanted a divorce.

Sheen denied threatening his wife with a knife or choking her. He told officers they had slapped each other on the arms and that he had snapped two pairs of her eyeglasses in front of her, according to an arrest warrant affidavit.

Within a week of Sheen's arrest, attorneys for both husband and wife said the couple wanted to reconcile. Sheen's attorney asked the judge to modify a restraining order—standard in Colorado domestic abuse cases—that kept them from contacting each other.

On Feb. 8, the judge agreed, and the couple reunited and hugged in an Aspen courtroom.

Yale Galanter, Brooke Sheen's attorney, said it was too soon to say whether she would take the stand if the case goes to trial.

Galanter declined to comment on the possibility of a plea deal but said Brooke Sheen still wants the charges against her husband dropped.

British actress Kate Winslet splits from husband

LONDON (AP)—British movie star Kate Winslet has separated from her film director husband Sam Mendes after nearly seven years of marriage, their law firm said Monday.

The surprise split puts an end to a golden couple of Britain's show business world, buttressed by matching Oscars and a host of commercial successes and artistic accolades.

The pair's law firm, Schillings, said the split was "entirely amicable and is by mutual agreement." Winslet, 34, shot to international stardom on the back of her appearance opposite Leonardo DiCaprio in James Cameron's "Titanic," and sealed her reputation with an Academy Award for best actress for her role in "The Reader" in 2009.

Mendes, 44, was already an acclaimed stage director by the time he won an Oscar for directing "American Beauty" in 1999.

The pair married in a small, low-key ceremony in the Caribbean in May 2003. It was Winslet's second marriage. Her first, to British director Jim Threapleton, ended in divorce in 2001.

Winslet has an 9-year-old daughter, Mia, from her marriage to Threapleton and a 6-year-old son, Joe, with Mendes. Schillings' statement said Winslet and Mendes were "fully committed to the future joint parenting of their children."

It wasn't clear whether divorce proceedings have begun. The statement said no further comment would be made, and calls and e-mails seeking comment from the law firm weren't immediately returned.

Born into a family with a strong thespian tradition, Winslet threw herself into acting early, securing bit roles in TV dramas in her early teens. Her breakthrough came in Peter Jackson's "Heavenly Creatures," which traced the obsessive relationship between two schoolgirls in 1950s New Zealand.

AP

In this Sunday Feb, 24, 2009 file photo, actress Kate Winslet and husband director Sam Mendes arrive at the Vanity Fair Oscar party in West Hollywood, Calif.

She went on to run through a number of other stage and film roles—including a memorable turn as Ophelia in Kenneth Branagh's film adaptation of "Hamlet"—but stardom would not come until "Titantic," one of the most commercially successful films in cinematic history.

Winslet met Oxford-educated Mendes the same year she split from her first husband, at a time when Mendes was still serving as artistic director of London's Donmar Warehouse theater. Both Winslet and Mendes are natives of Reading, an English town just northwest of London.

At the time, Mendes told the AP that "there's no story, really, other than two people—one famous person, another one who is slightly less famous and slightly less interesting."

Mendes followed the success of his cinematic debut, "American Beauty," with meditative gangster film "Road to Perdition," starring Tom Hanks. More recently he directed his wife in "Revolutionary Road," a film about a crumbling marriage that reunited Winslet with DiCaprio.

Reviews were largely favorable, but the film failed to set off the same box office fever that made "Titanic" such a huge hit.

In "Revolutionary Road," Winslet portrayed a suburban housewife who became increasingly bored and desperate with her stay-at-home life. The film won Winslet a Golden Globe for best dramatic actress, and in her acceptance speech she thanked her husband for pushing her so hard.

"Thank you for directing this film, babe, and thank you for killing us every single day and really enjoying us actually being in such horrific pain," she said last year. "But I can honestly say with my hand on my heart that I loved every second of working with you and it's made me love you more."

Mendes said directing his wife had been one of the best experiences of his life, although he said she liked to discuss the movie 24 hours a day while he preferred to do something else, like watch a baseball game, at night when work was done.

His next project is the 23rd James Bond film, which is expected to go into production later this year.

ABBA, Hollies, Genesis enter Rock Hall in NYC bash

NEW YORK (AP)—The Swedish hit machine ABBA and English progressive rockers Genesis accepted inductions into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Monday, despite prominent members staying away from the ceremony.

British Invasion harmony kings The Hollies, reggae superstar Jimmy Cliff and raucous rockers Iggy Pop and the Stooges also entered the hall. So did a group of songwriters responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars in sales.

After "Waterloo" started them off winning a European songwriting contest in 1974, ABBA released a string of pop hits such as "Knowing Me, Knowing You," "Fernando" and "Dancing Queen." Members Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad drew salutes for that work on Monday. Partners Bjorn Ulvaeus and Agnetha Faltskog weren't there, the absence unexplained.

"These songs have brought us all the way into the great Rock and Roll Hall of Fame," Andersson said, "and I speak for all of us ... we are deeply, deeply honored."

AP

Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad of the band ABBA accept their trophies during the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony in New York, Monday, March 15, 2010.

Lyngstad pointed out her grandson in the audience, noting that while he was a heavy metal musician he still appreciated grandma's music. Also cheering from the audience was actress Meryl Streep, who starred in the recent "Mamma Mia!" movie, which, along with the Broadway show, has helped keep ABBA's music alive since the band's 1982 breakup.

That's final, too: Lyngstad told the audience ABBA would never perform together again.

The Waldorf-Astoria hotel audience got one-fourth of ABBA in performance. Andersson took to the piano as country star Faith Hill sang "The Winner Takes It All."

Genesis had two distinct incarnations, one led by theatrical lead singer Peter Gabriel and the other when drummer Phil Collins took over the microphone. Trey Anastasio, of Phish, paid tribute to both with his own band, which performed "Watcher of the Skies" and "No Reply at All."

Gabriel was missing on Monday. Former bandmate Mike Rutherford said Gabriel wanted to send his apologies. "He has a very legitimate and genuine excuse," Rutherford said. "He's actually starting a tour."

Tim Burton, Marion Cotillard get French honor

PARIS (AP)—American movie director Tim Burton and Oscar-winning French actress Marion Cotillard were added to France's cultural honor roll in a star-studded Paris ceremony Monday.

Culture Minister Frederic Mitterrand pinned green and gold medallions on the two, making the "Alice in Wonderland" and "Edward Scissorhands" director an officer in France's National Order of Arts and Letters, while the "Nine" and "La Vie en Rose" star was made a knight.

Burton, wearing a dark suit and his trademark finger-in-an-electric-socket hairdo, called it "one of the biggest honors I've ever received."

"From the beginning of my career, I always felt a very special place in my heart (for) France," he told the crowd of journalists and fans. "Because whether or not you liked the movies, I always felt that the French were looking for the poetry, looking for the meaning, looking for the things I was trying to do.

AP

French actress Marion Cotillard, right, poses with US director Tim Burton, after they were awarded with the medal of Arts and Letters by French Culture Minister Frederic Mitterrand at the culture ministry in Paris, Monday March 15, 2010.

"France has such a special place in my heart and I feel much more at home here than I do in my own country, and I always have," he said, adding: "I thank you very much."

Cotillard, dressed in a checkered skirt and blouse in seashell pink silk, thanked Burton, whose 2003 film "Big Fish" was among her first U.S. movies.

Burton "in a way opened the doors to American cinema to me and has always been my idol," she said in a brief speech. She also thanked her friends and family—including her brother and her boyfriend, celebrated French director Guillaume Canet, both of whom attended the ceremony.

Burton's girlfriend, Helena Bonham Carter—who plays the short-tempered Red Queen in "Alice in Wonderland"—was on also hand for Monday's event, looking in her quirky black and white striped skirt suit and veiled hat as if she had just walked off the set of a Burton movie.

Polanski's wife says their worst moments are over

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—The wife of Roman Polanski says she believes the 32-year-old sexual abuse case against her husband will be finished soon.

French actress and singer Emmanuelle Seigner, 43, is to appear in a TVN24 interview in Poland on Monday and the station ran some clips before its broadcast.

The 76-year-old Polanski was arrested in September on a U.S. arrest warrant and is under house arrest in the couple's house in Gstaad, Switzerland, pending an extradition decision.

Seigner says their life is "not ideal" but is "good" because Polanski can see their two children, Morgane and Elvis.

She says she believes the matter will be "solved and over pretty soon" and that the "toughest moments are behind us."

The singer is in Poland to promote a new album.

Grisham releases 'The Firm,' 22 others as e-books

NEW YORK (AP)—Best-selling author John Grisham is finally ready to go digital.

More than a year after reports emerged he would make his books available in electronic format, his publisher made it official Tuesday, announcing that all 23 of his works can be purchased as e-texts.

"John Grisham is one of the greatest storytellers of all time," Sonny Mehta, chairman and editor-in-chief of the Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, said in a statement. "This is one of our most exciting e-book initiatives to date and is certain to usher in a new generation of Grisham readers and e-book adopters."

Grisham, the author of such favorites as "The Firm" and "The Pelican Brief," has expressed mixed feelings about e-books and the quickly growing market, currently estimated at around 3 percent to 5 percent of total sales. In an interview with the "Today" show last fall, he worried that if e-books really caught on "then you're going to wipe out tons of bookstores and publishers and we're going to buy it all online."

"I'm probably going to be all right," he said, "but the aspiring writers are going to have a very hard time getting published."

Knopf Doubleday is a division of Random House Inc.

Judge grants Evans temporary injunction against ex

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (AP)—A judge has ordered a temporary injunction against the ex-husband of country singer Sara Evans.

Monday's ruling prevents Craig Schelske (SHEL-skee) from making any more public statements about his ex-wife or the reasons behind their 2007 divorce.

Evans received a temporary restraining order last month after Schelske made comments about their divorce while testifying about a possible new law in front of the Tennessee Legislature and on Nashville talk radio.

Williamson County Judge James G. Martin III also ordered Schelske to pay damages as determined by an arbitrator.

Evans filed for divorce in 2006 after abruptly dropping out of "Dancing With the Stars." The couple's 2007 divorce agreement included a confidentiality agreement.

Man rusty on rules of dating after 30 years off the market

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am newly single after a 30-year marriage. Would you please explain to me the protocol regarding intimacy? After how many dates is it appropriate to engage in intimacy? And afterward, should the man call the woman or the woman call the man? How long should one wait before calling? I'm afraid if I call too soon I'll appear needy, and if I wait too long to call I'll appear to be a player.

TENTATIVE TOM IN TAMPA

DEAR TENTATIVE TOM: When an individual has reached middle age, that person is considered mature enough to know when he (or she) is comfortable enough with another person to engage in "intimacy." No time limit is engraved in stone. As to who should call whom first to offer congratulations on a fine performance, there is no reason to stand on ceremony. Everyone likes a compliment, and a prompt, "Thank you for a wonderful time; it was great," is not considered needy—it's good manners.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently experienced an awkward situation. I reconnected with an old friend I hadn't seen in about four years. The last time I saw her she was pregnant. I asked about her baby, and she informed me that he had died a few months after his birth.

She clearly found the memory sad, but at the same time had moved on. I didn't want to force her to re-experience the event by asking her what happened, but it seemed rude to abruptly change the subject to some minor matter after such sobering news.

What is the polite thing to say when someone tells you about a tragedy, but long after it happened?

WORDS FAIL ME, PEKIN, ILL.

DEAR WORDS: The correct way to handle it would have been to say, "I'm so sorry for your loss," and let your friend decide whether to discuss it further or change the subject. In other words, let her take the lead.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When I was married I had an affair with a married man. We had a child together, and I divorced my husband. When the affair ended, child support was never mentioned, and for the last nine years I have raised my daughter by myself.

I am recently married to a wonderful man who takes care of both of us very well. My daughter has never asked anything about her father, but I know down the road she'll want to know what happened. I don't know when I should talk to her about this, and if I should take any legal steps to claim child support. Part of me feels that I should go for it; part of me is saying I should just let it go. Your thoughts, please?

AMBIVALENT IN PLANO, TEXAS

DEAR AMBIVALENT: The time to tell your daughter the details is when she starts asking you questions. Whether you should seek retroactive child support is something you should discuss with an attorney. While it might result in a nice chunk of change that could be put toward your daughter's college education, it could also result in the biological father's having access to the girl. And frankly, a man who not only cheats on his wife but shirks his financial responsibility to his daughter strikes me as less than a positive role model.

■ ■ ■ ■

TO MY IRISH READERS: Have a joyous St. Patrick's Day, but if you're drinking, don't drive. And if you're driving, don't drink.

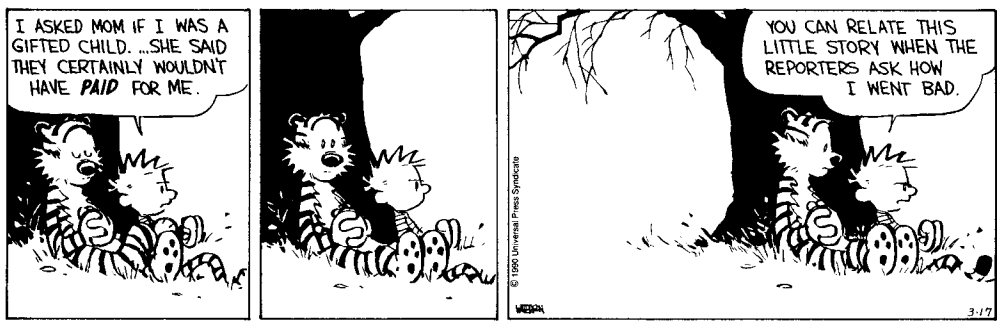
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I ASKED MOM IF I WAS A GIFTED CHILD. ...SHE SAID THEY CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE PAID FOR ME.
YOU CAN RELATE THIS LITTLE STORY WHEN THE REPORTERS ASK HOW I WENT BAD.
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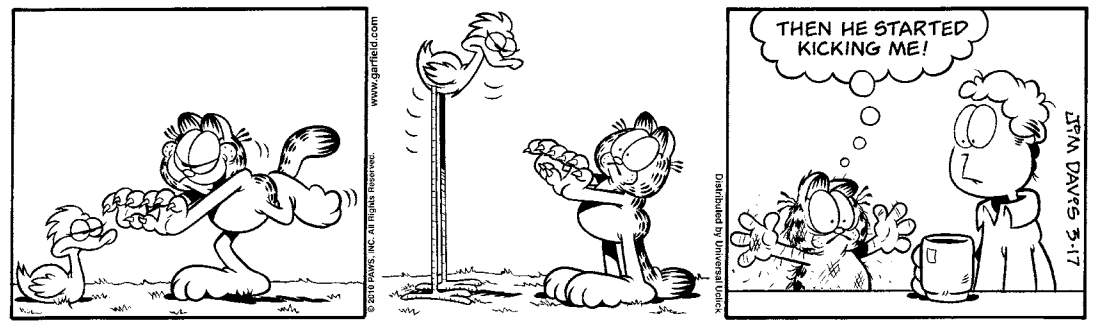
3-17

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


THEN HE STARTED KICKING ME!
JIM DAVIS 3-17
www.garfield.com
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Distributed by Universal Uclick

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HEY. YOU TWO NEED TO WEAR SOMETHING GREEN TODAY.
WHY?
WHY? IT'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY, OF COURSE. NO GREEN CLOTHES COULD EQUAL A PINCH.
ISN'T THAT HARASSMENT, DAD? WE COULD BE EXPELLED FOR THAT.
DO YOU THINK LAWSUITS ARE FUNNY?
OH, THIS IS A BUNCH O' BLARNEY. I WISH SOMEBODY'D PINCH ME.
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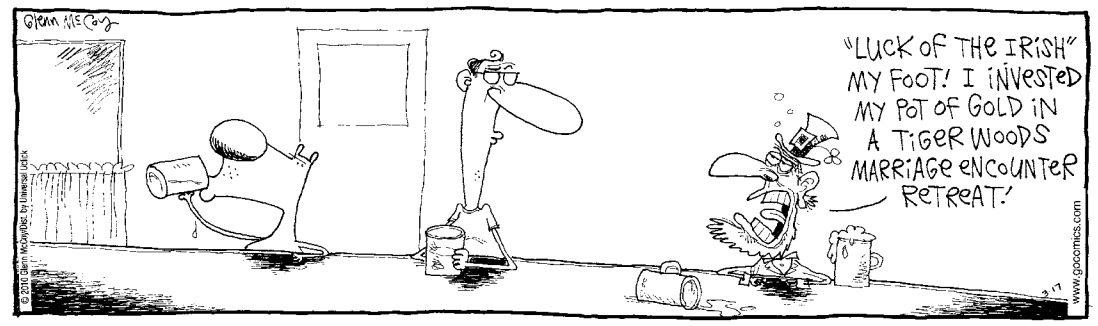
3-17

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


Glenn McCoy
"LUCK OF THE IRISH" MY FOOT! I INVESTED MY POT OF GOLD IN A TIGER WOODS MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER RETREAT!
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Bashful
4 Founder of analytical psychology
8 Possess
12 Verily
13 Somewhere out there
14 Culture medium
15 Zero
16 "Join us"
18 River tributary, often
20 Humor
21 Cronies
24 Starbucks option
28 William Boyd's nom de Westerns
32 Sitarist's rendition
33 Work with
34 Place
36 Brooch
37 Passel
39 Annoying follower
41 "M*A*S*H" setting
43 Knighted woman
44 "CSI" evidence
46 Take as one's own
50 Musicfest
55 Neither mate
56 Genealogy chart
57 — gin fizz
58 Bill's partner
59 Goes off course
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61 Actor Ron

DOWN
1 Harmonization
2 Inheritor
3 Ivy League school
4 Dogs' wild kin
5 Venusian vessel?
6 "Platoon" setting, for short
7 Got bigger
8 Summertime garment
9 Past
10 Moving truck
11 Work unit
17 Help
19 Fuel economy org.
22 Mississippi politico Trent
23 "Slammin' Sammy" of golf
25 Mafia boss
26 Not "fer"
27 Phyllis Diller's "husband"
28 Corn coating
29 Norway's capital
30 Juror, in theory
31 Pop singer Lady —
35 Court-case compensation
38 Shims
40 Started
42 Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"
45 Moreover
47 Erstwhile
48 Swimmers' place
49 Helen of —
50 Pigpen
51 401(k) alternative
52 Opposite of 53-Down
53 Opposite of 52-Down
54 Affirmative action?

Solution time: 21 mins.

O	P	A	L	■	U	N	D	O	■	T	N	T
F	I	N	E	■	S	E	E	M	■	E	A	U
T	E	N	N	E	S	S	E	E	■	N	I	B
■	■	■	D	A	R	T	■	L	A	D	L	E
P	E	T	E	R	■	■	M	E	R	E	■	■
O	V	E	R	■	F	L	A	T	I	R	O	N
K	I	N	■	V	I	A	L	S	■	I	V	E
E	L	E	G	A	N	C	E	■	C	Z	A	R
■	■	M	A	C	K	■	■	F	I	E	L	D
O	M	E	G	A	■	S	E	A	R	■	■	■
B	U	N	■	T	E	N	T	A	C	L	E	S
E	S	T	■	E	R	I	N	■	L	A	N	K
Y	E	S	■	D	A	T	A	■	E	D	D	Y

Yesterday's answer 3-17

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				17				
18			19		■	■	20			■	■	■
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31	■	32			
33			■	34				35	■	36		
37			38	■	39				40			
41				42	■	43				■	■	■
■	■	■	44		45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54		■	55		
56				■	57				■	58		
59				■	60				■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mia Hamm, 38; Rob Lowe, 46; Gary Sinise, 55; Kurt Russell, 59

Happy Birthday: Emotional issues will be brought to the surface. You can't take advantage of the opportunities that are present this year if you labor over trivial matters. Open a door that will lead you in a new direction, allowing you to use your creativity and original ideas. A partnership that will help inspire you is apparent and can bring favorable results. Your numbers are 8, 12, 22, 27, 34, 39, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't put up with anyone trying to hold you back. Be bold and honest about your intentions and plans. A personal problem may seem impossible but, once you begin to deal with it, you will discover a way to turn things around. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Get to the bottom of things quickly to avoid unnecessary criticism and opposition. Positive changes will bring about better relationships. Share your ideas with an organization looking for solutions and reform. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Do everything you can to help others. Your response to a cry for help will bring you in contact with people who have plenty to say but little to offer. Don't fall for empty promises. Get everything in writing. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): If you are too involved in what others think of you, it may end up costing you. Put your work first in order to avoid any uncertainty regarding your future. Finish what you start before you take care of personal matters. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Focus on love, romance and the person you favor. Taking a serious look at your current lifestyle or beliefs will help you make decisions about the future. An unorthodox offer may be tempting but read the fine print. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be tempted to jump into a deal that may not be in your best interest. Don't take a risk. Moderation will be required no matter what you are involved in, so slow down. Excess is the enemy and hard work your ally. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Do whatever it takes to please any partner you are involved with personally or professionally. Lay out a fair plan that offers as much to everyone involved as it does to you. Don't limit your chance to get ahead by being lazy or introspective; speak up. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Get busy turning your talents into cash. Your ability to adapt to the times and the climate of a situation will help you achieve the success you've been pursuing. Good fortune can be yours if you make the right moves. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll be pulled in different directions when it comes to emotional matters. The changes at home may not be welcome at first but, once you give things a chance to settle down, you will realize there are better times ahead. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You don't have to make a choice just because someone is putting pressure on you. Sometimes it takes an insensitive remark from someone to get you back on track. Don't take offense; learn from the experience. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Life may be a little confusing if you buy into what someone is telling you. Don't be enticed by an offer full of false pretenses. Focus on what you can have and do. Your kindness and generosity will attract positive attention. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll be caught in an emotional whirlwind. Don't let temptation lead you down the wrong path. Let your feelings be known and react respectfully. Find out where you stand and what is required of you. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unique and quick to act. You are an opportunist, an organizer and a competitor. You communicate expressively.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7	9				1	6	
5			1		4			7
4			7					9
1			5					8
	3	2				5	9	
7			9					3
2			8					6
9			2		1			5
	1	7				8	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

8	5	7	6	4	3	2	9	1
3	1	4	9	5	2	7	8	6
6	9	2	8	7	1	4	3	5
9	4	5	1	3	7	6	2	8
7	8	3	5	2	6	1	4	9
1	2	6	4	9	8	5	7	3
5	3	9	7	6	4	8	1	2
2	7	8	3	1	5	9	6	4
4	6	1	2	8	9	3	5	7

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/16

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE GREAT WILLIAM WILBERFORCE **Solution: 8 letters**

E	H	S	E	D	A	S	U	R	C	K	M	H	Y	F
I	D	T	M	O	V	I	(E)	W	S	E	E	S	T	I
Y	E	A	I	N	N	(M)	S	N	E	R	T	S	I	L
R	C	N	R	A	(I)	T	O	T	O	S	I	S	R	M
A	N	O	O	(T)	F	M	I	D	I	P	E	O	A	R
T	E	I	N	I	M	N	E	N	O	G	B	N	H	O
N	L	T	G	O	G	S	O	R	N	A	E	L	C	F
E	O	O	C	N	I	I	H	E	L	U	D	E	G	E
M	V	M	B	A	T	T	L	E	V	S	U	G	M	R
A	E	T	R	I	N	L	A	E	A	O	C	A	I	E
I	N	P	L	A	A	I	R	D	R	C	A	C	S	E
L	E	O	L	H	H	U	M	A	N	I	T	Y	S	R
R	B	I	C	S	O	C	I	A	L	U	I	I	I	A
A	H	O	S	P	I	T	A	B	L	E	O	N	O	C
P	O	L	I	T	I	C	I	A	N	S	N	F	N	N

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Abolitionists, Action, Animals, Battle, Benevolence, Career, Challenges, Charity, Commons, Crusades, Donation, Education, Faith, Film, Foundation, Gifts, Hero, Hospitable, Humanity, Labor, Legacy, Maneuver, Meeting, Mission, Motion, Movie, Parliamentary, Philanthropist, Politicians, Praised, Reform, Religion, Social, Time, Trade, Views

Yesterday's Answer: Military

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order. $1 pah for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0425
-V-.	
CECILIA NAPUTI RIOS, Defendant.	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susue, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by Messenter or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Dated, this 30th day of December, 2008.

Melencio Guevarra
P.O. Box 502530
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 898-9654

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANSHIP FOR	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0089
PATRICK RIVERA GUEVARRA and MARTIN RIVERA GUEVARRA: Minor Children, By:	NOTICE OF HEARING
PATRICK VICTORIA GUEVARRA, Petitioner.	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 31, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 18th day of February, 2010.

/s/ Bernadita Sablan
Clerk of Court

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Deadline to submit an application is at **5pm on Friday, March 19, 2010**.

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

SKU Saipan Karios University

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PUBLIC & PRIVATE SECTOR THAT **MR. CHI BUM AN** AND **MRS. HYO SUK SHIN** ARE NO LONGER THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR, RESPECTIVELY OF **INTEGRATIVE CORPORATION dba Saipan Karios University**. ANY BUSINESS TRANSACTION ENTERED INTO BY **MR. AN** AND **MRS. SHIN** IN BEHALF OF INTEGRATIVE CORPORATION FROM FEBRUARY 05, 2010 TO PRESENT, WERE NOT AUTHORIZED AND WILL NOT BE HONORED BY THE NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY.

CHI BUM AN

Note: Previous Kairos Company located in Dandan is not related to Integrative Corporation.

FROM THE NEW OFFICERS AND MANAGEMENT OF INTEGRATIVE CORPORATION

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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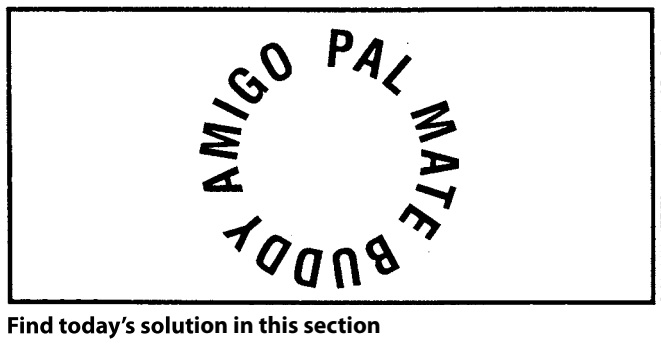
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Find today's solution in this section

Glamour boy Beckham to miss World Cup after injury

LONDON (AP)—Unless David Beckham can mend it as well as he can bend it, soccer's now-limping glamour boy will miss this summer's World Cup—a blow to tournament organizers, sponsors, TV viewers and average fans.

Beckham underwent surgery Monday for a "totally torn" left Achilles' tendon and is expected to be out of action for about six months, said Dr. Sakari Orava, who performed the operation. The 34-year-old midfielder was injured Sunday while playing for Italian club AC Milan.

"He will have to take it very easy during the next two to three weeks or a month, and then he will continue with a recuperation program slowly," Orava told The Associated Press. "The foot won't take much strain for two to three months."

Orava also said it would be "four months to running," and another two months before playing.

Beckham's spokesman, Simon Oliveira, said the tendon was completely repaired, and he expected Beckham to return to the game.

"David is expected to make a full recovery," Oliveira said.

That means Beckham won't be bending free kicks or curling pinpoint passes at the World Cup that begins June 11 in South Africa—what he had hoped would be his fourth appearance for England at the tournament.

But most experts expect that Becks will eventually be back.

He has such a giant personality that his legacy may even grow stronger.

"While it's a horrible setback for the man—everybody knows how much he would have loved to be at the World Cup—his future is as bright as it's ever been because of the kind of following he's built up in the last decade," celebrity publicist Max Clifford told The Associated Press.

Beckham was injured in the closing minutes of AC Milan's 1-0 win over Chievo Verona. Walking with crutches, he was cheered by hundreds of fans as he checked into a hospital in Turku, Finland, after arriving by private jet.

"I hope to make a swift and full recovery," Beckham said in a statement before surgery.

Rich Mkhondo, a spokesman for the World Cup organizing committee, called Beckham a "household name" and said that "if he had been at the World Cup in South Africa it would have enhanced spectator presence. We wish him luck and hope that he has a speedy recovery. We would love it if he recovers in time and is picked to play at the World Cup."

Even if Beckham's playing days are over, he has plenty of off-the-field commitments and earning power to keep him busy.

Beckham earned a reported $16.5 million in personal sponsorship deals in his first full season with the Los Angeles Galaxy of Major League Soccer. A separate company, Brand Beckham, receives his $5.5 million base salary from the Galaxy, the share of merchandising he generates for the club, and joint endorsements with his pop-star wife, Victoria, including their range of fragrances.

Scott Guglielmino, ESPN's vice president of programming, said the network might even want to use Beckham as a commentator on its World Cup telecasts.

"I think anybody with David's credentials and World Cup experience would be a tremendous addition to anyone's coverage of the World Cup," Guglielmino said. "But I think it's a little too early to answer what his plans are."

Beckham has sponsorship deals with Adidas, Motorola and Armani, among others.

"Brand Beckham is the most famous brand in world football," Clifford said. "He's become a star outside football. In terms of earnings, advertising, sponsors and offers, there is no reason the next two or three years should not be as successful as the last two or three years because of what he brings to the table."

Bobby Charlton, star of England's 1966 World Cup-winning team, thinks Beckham will at least return to playing club football.

"I don't know if we will see him in an England shirt again. I hope so," Charlton said. "I have known him for a long time and he gets a lot of pleasure out of playing the game. Forget about all the finance and the hyperbole that goes with it, he just loves playing football."

The bottom line: Never count Beckham out. He rose from humble roots in east London to become one of the most famous athletes on the planet. He's absorbed some major setbacks over the years, and always managed to bounce back and defy the critics:

■ Beckham was hung in effigy by some England fans after being red-carded against Argentina at the 1998 World Cup, only to come back as England captain at the 2002 tournament.

■ After a stellar career at Manchester United, he was dumped by manager Alex Ferguson in 2003, but went on to win a Spanish league title with Real Madrid.

■ Beckham tearfully relinquished the England captaincy after the team went out of the 2006 World Cup, yet managed to regain a place with national team and surpass the milestone of 100 appearances (he's now at 115).

Beckham is no longer considered a vital member of the England team, whose star player is striker Wayne Rooney. Although Beckham was likely to be picked for the World Cup squad, he was not expected to be a starter. He is now considered more valuable coming off the bench to provide a spark in the second half.

There's a good chance Beckham could be in South Africa as a face of England's bid to host the 2018 World Cup.

"He is a huge asset to the bid—there is no question about that," Football Association chairman David Triesman said. "He is very charismatic and an extremely decent person who will do all and anything to help his country."

If Beckham makes a full recovery, he could return to the England team for its qualifying campaign for the 2012 European Championship. The first matches are in September.

Beckham could certainly return to the Galaxy and AC Milan if he wants.

AP

AC Milan English soccer star David Beckham leaves the pitch after being injured during the Serie A soccer match between AC Milan and Chievo at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, Sunday, March 14, 2010.

Quinn thankful to get a fresh start in Denver

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—The Denver Broncos aren't publicly saying they have another open quarterback competition on their hands.

They don't have to.

Josh McDaniels' actions and the words of Brady Quinn and Kyle Orton show they most certainly do.

Quinn, acquired from the Cleveland Browns on Sunday in exchange for fullback Peyton Hillis and two draft picks, was diplomatic in his introductory teleconference Monday, declining to come right out and say he intends to supplant Orton as the starter.

A day after Orton said he was confident he was still the starter, Quinn made it clear he intends to be under center and not sending in signals when the 2010 season starts in six months.

"I'll put it this way, I think every quarterback on our roster wants to play," Quinn said. "Believe me, whether it's Tom (Brandstater), Kyle, or myself, we're all quarterbacks. We're going to be team players first, but we all want to be out there playing."

McDaniels hasn't spoken publicly since the trade. Asked if McDaniels had promised him a chance to fight for the starting job, Quinn demurred.

"Really, those conversations are private at this point," he said. "But I think all of us quarterbacks are going to be working our best to compete with one another and make each other better."

That group won't include Chris Simms, last year's backup who was jettisoned Monday.

When Orton was acquired in the Jay Cutler trade last April, McDaniels threw open the competition for the starting job and Orton emerged the winner by late June.

He guided Denver to a 6-2 start but a 2-6 finish left them out of the playoffs for the fourth straight season.

Afterward, McDaniels endorsed Orton's status as his starter, saying, "I'm pleased with a lot of what Kyle did and I saw improvement in what he did. I was happy to have the opportunity to work with him this year and we'll look forward to the future."

Then, McDaniels' actions spoke just as loudly Sunday when he traded for Quinn.

Quinn passed his physical on Monday—he finished last season on injured reserve with a severely sprained left foot—and began participating in the team's offseason training program.

Orton, meanwhile, was in Hawaii, where he's attending the NFL players association meetings as the Broncos' union representative. His commitment there won't allow him to show up in Denver until Friday.

Quinn said he was thankful for a fresh start in Denver.

In three up-and-down seasons in Cleveland, he played in 14 games and started a dozen times after the Browns selected him No. 22 overall in the 2007 draft following a stellar career at Notre Dame.

Quinn started nine games for the Browns last season, sharing time once again with Derek Anderson. He suffered his foot injury on Dec. 20 against Kansas City and finished the year on IR for the second straight season (he had a broken finger on his right hand in 2008).

Quinn is due $700,000 this season and next, although his salary will go up considerably if he wins the starting job.

Orton was tendered for one year at $2.621 million. As a restricted free agent, any team signing him to an offer sheet would have to be willing to forfeit a first-round draft pick to Denver, an almost prohibitive cost for a quarterback with middling statistics like Orton's.

Simms, who played in two games last season, was set to make $2.54 million next season.

Quinn said he hadn't had a chance to go over the playbook yet, but he anticipated there would be a lot of crossover from the offense he ran in college for Charlie Weis and the one McDaniels runs in Denver. Both are proteges of Bill Belichick.

Quinn lost to Denver in each of the last two seasons. He said he saw vast improvement in Denver's defense last season but the thing that impressed him the most was the Broncos' offensive line.

Ryan Harris protected his Quinn's blindside in college. Now, he's the Broncos' right tackle with All-Pro Ryan Clady playing the left side.

"I think you've just got to be excited to have that type of talent in front of you," said Quinn, hopeful he'll get to admire this line from up-close next season.

Celtics coast to 119-93 victory over Pistons

BOSTON (AP)—Paul Pierce, Ray Allen and Michael Finley scored 15 points apiece, and Kevin Garnett had 14 points and eight rebounds on Monday night to help the Boston Celtics coast to a 119-93 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

Boston rested its starters in the fourth quarter while beating a non-contender for the second straight home game. But in between was a 104-93 loss at Cleveland that could be a more important measurement of where the Celtics stand in the playoff hunt.

Will Bynum had 16 points and seven assists, and Jason Maxiell had 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Pistons, who lost Tayshaun Prince to a first-quarter back injury, then slumped to their ninth loss in 11 games.

AP

Boston Celtics forward Paul Pierce (34) yells as he drives past Detroit Pistons forward Tayshaun Prince, rear, during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Monday, March 15, 2010.

Lakers 124, Warriors 121

At Oakland, Kobe Bryant scored 29 points and Pau Gasol added 26 to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to their ninth straight victory over the Golden State Warriors.

Andrew Bynum added 19 points and 14 rebounds, and Lamar Odom had 17 points and 12 boards for the Lakers, who have won three straight following their first three-game losing streak in more than two years.

The Lakers led by 11 late in the fourth quarter but barely held on for the victory. It wasn't sealed until Stephen Curry and Monta Ellis missed 3-pointers in the final seconds. Ellis' last-ditch attempt bounced on the rim three times before falling aside at the buzzer.

Curry scored 29 points for the Warriors, who have lost seven of eight.

Rockets 125, Nuggets 123

At Houston, Aaron Brooks scored 31 points, including a jumper with 2.9 seconds left, to help the Rockets end Denver's six-game winning streak.

Carmelo Anthony scored 45 points for the Nuggets, but missed a 3-point attempt at the buzzer. Luis Scola grabbed the final rebound and finished with 23 points and 11 boards.

Scola was coming off a career-high, 44-point game, and converted a key three-point play with 41 seconds remaining to put Houston ahead 122-121.

Kevin Martin scored 29 points for Houston. Chauncey Billups and J.R. Smith added 17 apiece for the Nuggets.

Jazz 112, Wizards 89

At Salt Lake City, Carlos Boozer scored 23 points and Deron Williams notched his 35th double-double of the season as Utah ended a two-game losing streak by beating Washington.

Williams finished with 17 points and 11 assists. Andray Blatche scored 24 points and Mike Miller added 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Wizards, who lost their eighth straight game.

Knicks 94, 76ers 84

At Philadelphia, Danilo Gallinari scored 21 points and Toney Douglas added 20 as New York rallied past struggling Philadelphia.

Al Harrington contributed 15, Tracy McGrady scored 14 and Wilson Chandler had 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Knicks.

Jrue Holiday scored 18 points, Willie Green added 17 and Andre Iguodala had 14 points and a career-high 17 rebounds for the Sixers, who have lost five in a row and 10 of their last 11.

Hornets 108, Clippers 100

At Los Angeles, David West scored 24 points as New Orleans ended a seven-game road losing streak with a victory over the Clippers.

New Orleans beat the Clippers for the 13th straight time since a 100-90 loss on Jan. 8, 2007.

Darren Collison, New Orleans' first-round draft pick out of UCLA, had 18 points and 14 assists. Emeka Okafor, the only player to start all 68 games for the injury-depleted Hornets, had 14 rebounds and 12 points.

The Clippers lost their eighth straight game overall and 10th in their last 11.

Arenas: 'I deserve to be punished' for gun prank

WASHINGTON (AP)—Gilbert Arenas says he deserves to be punished for bringing guns to the locker room.

The suspended Washington Wizards guard told *Esquire* magazine that he wasn't using "longevity thinking" when he took out four guns in what he says was an attempt to play a prank on teammate Javaris Crittenton in December.

Arenas pleaded guilty to a felony gun charge in January and will be sentenced next week. He has been suspended until the end of the season by the NBA.

In the *Esquire* interview, which hits newsstands next week and was obtained by The Associated Press in advance, Arenas says he has "messed up" the legacy of Wizards owner Abe Pollin, who died in November.

"I have a painting of him in my garage. I just walk by it with my head down," Arenas said. "I called Mrs. Pollin and said, 'If Abe was still with us, I would've had to talk to him, so I'm gonna give you the same respect. I want to say sorry to you. I deserve to be punished. I'll do everything it takes to get back your husband's respect.'"

Arenas has kept a low profile since his guilty plea. He told the AP this month that he would have "no problems" playing for the Wizards again and that he's not nervous about his sentencing date as long as the judge "goes off the actual real story" of what happened. Last week, he submitted paperwork to change his jersey from No. 0 to No. 6 next season.

Arenas told *Esquire* that he used to have as many as 500 firearms in his home, having bought many of them from an elderly man's World War I collection. He says he put all but four of them in storage when he started having children.

Arenas also said that he and Crittenton returned to good terms almost immediately after their confrontation, which stemmed from a card game on the team plane. Crittenton also displayed a gun during the spat and was sentenced to unsupervised probation for a misdemeanor gun charge.

"He goes into the Jacuzzi," Arenas told the magazine. "You know what? I gotta warm my knee up anyway. I go in and sit with him. We're just sitting in there talking. We didn't have no problem. It was just some fun that got out of control."

Arenas also gave his perspective on another fallen star, Tiger Woods, separating the golfer's infidelity from the sport.

"Say it's all true," Arenas said. "At the end of the day, that's not the reason I love Tiger. I got three Tiger Woods games for my Xbox just in case one gets scratched. On the cover, it doesn't have him walking next to his wife. It just has Tiger Woods, hitting shots."

Source: Arizona, Reynolds agree to $14.5M deal

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Arizona slugger Mark Reynolds says he's agreed to terms on a new contract with the Diamondbacks.

Two people familiar with the talks said on Monday that the deal was worth $14.5 million over three years and includes an $11 million club option for 2013. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the team has not announced the deal.

Reynolds expressed "relief to finally be able to get it done."

A 16th-round draft pick, the 26-year-old third baseman hit 44 homers with 102 RBIs last season. He also struck out 223 times, breaking the major league record of 204 he set the previous year.

His agreement first was reported by *The Arizona Republic*.

The new contract was expected to be announced by the team on Tuesday.

According to one of the people familiar with the deal, Reynolds gets a $1 million signing bonus and a $500,000 salary this season, then $5 million in 2011 and $7.5 million in 2012. If the club doesn't pick up the 2013 option, Reynolds gets a $500,000 buyout.

The contract also has a limited no-trade clause.

Reynolds is the second young player to be locked up with a new contract from the Diamondbacks this spring. Earlier, 22-year-old All-Star outfielder Justin Upton signed a $51.25 million, five-year contract.

Reynolds had set an opening day deadline for reaching an agreement. Otherwise, he would have gone to year-by-year arbitration. He was to have become arbitration eligible after the coming season.

Although manager A.J. Hinch would like Reynolds to cut down on the strikeouts, he can live with a high number of them if he produces as he did a year ago.

"I want him to be a monster at the plate. I want him to be him. I don't have any other expectations other than him to be himself," Hinch said.

Reynolds improved his batting average from .239 in 2008 to .260 in 2009, and had a .543 slugging percentage and a .349 on-base percentage last season.

Since he was called up from Double-A Mobile in May of 2007, Reynolds leads all NL third basemen with 89 home runs and ranks second in RBIs (261) and stolen bases (35). He had 24 steals last season.

He has been a work in progress on defense. Reynolds led the majors with 35 errors in 2008 but improved to 24 last year.

Reynolds confirmed the contract agreement after he left Monday's 15-3 victory over Seattle.

But after Reynolds' quick comment, a Diamondbacks official told him not to talk about the deal before Tuesday's official announcement.

Still, Reynolds spoke of how happy he was to escape the stress that the contract talks had created. He was hitting .158 this spring before going 2 for 3 with two RBIs on Monday.

"Just the negotiations back and forth, day in and day out," he said, "throwing numbers here, there, trying to come to an agreement. It's a lot of work. I never really realized how much there was to it, but it's a good problem to have."

Did he ever think he would be a millionaire playing this game?

"Honestly, no," Reynolds said. "I was a 16th-rounder, never had the big signing bonus or anything. But I worked my tail off to get where I am right now and hopefully it pays off."

Agassi, Sampras rivalry still makes news

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP)—An exchange between Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras during a charity match has captured the attention of the British newspapers and the blogosphere.

The Sun and *The Guardian* newspapers both had headlines touting the verbal volleys the two former tennis champions and rivals took at each other Friday night. Sports blog Deadspin and The Huffington Post also ran stories about it.

Sampras was partnered with Roger Federer and Agassi with Rafael Nadal in a doubles match during the BNP Paribas Open to raise money for earthquake relief in Haiti.

The players were wearing headset microphones so the crowd could hear them talking.

At one point Sampras mimicked Agassi's pigeon-toed walk.

Agassi, in turn, chided Sampras for being stingy. In his book, published late last year, Agassi criticized Sampras for being a poor tipper.

Sampras then served high and hard, forcing Agassi to duck out of the way. The crowd laughed throughout and both retired players wore big smiles.

Neither showed up at the post-match news conference.

Nadal said he thought Sampras and Agassi were just trying to have fun with the crowd and he didn't sense any real hostility.

TBK, PIC ease past foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TBK Auto Shop found a new moneyman in young gun Mark Castro to rout Bank of Guam, 84-68, during their game in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League on Monday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Castro scored 20 points, making most of his baskets on slashing moves to the basket to help TBK end its two-game losing skid and improve the team's record to an even 3-3 slate.

Castro's contribution eased the burden on Kae Bernardo's shoulders, as the latter was the consistent top scorer for TBK in its first five games.

Bernardo still finished in double figures with 14, evenly spreading his output in the four quarters of the match. Also tallying double digits in scoring were Jun Pantaleon and Mel Capalad, who chipped in 16 and 13 markers, respectively.

TBK and Bank of Guam were in a neck-and-neck battle in the first half before the latter run out of fresh legs in the second half to match up with Castro and other much younger TBK players. Castro anchored TBK's breakaway in the third period, drilling nine points to put the team ahead, 56-49.

Another youthful player suited up for TBK in the fourth canto with Christian De Vero providing instant offense, scoring seven markers. He, Castro, and Bernardo helped TBK keep its distance with BoG in the fourth period en route to their 16-point win.

In the second game, Pacific Islands Club had a jackrabbit start, leading to a 92-83 triumph over Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Darwin Barbo and Ryan Sanciangco fired nine points apiece in the opening quarter and Heartim Williams added seven, lifting PIC to a 29-14 lead.

Fiesta played catch up since then and finally grabbed the driver's seat at the end of the third canto, 67-65, behind Elmer Esdrelon's 15 points in that period. However, Fiesta failed to sustain its momentum in the final canto, as Esdrelon lacked support from his teammates.

Entering the final one minute of the match, Esdrelon was the lone Fiesta player to score more than two points in the fourth. John March Ong tallied his fourth point in the last 16 seconds of the final canto.

Sanciangco and Barbo saved PIC in the fourth period, combining for 19 points, while Williams hit clutch free throws to seal the win.

First Game

TBK 84 – Castro 20, Pantaleon 16, Bernardo 14, Capalad 13, De Vero 9, Laquian 4, Pangelinan 4, Sevilla 2, Tibayan 2.

BoG 68 – Colden 20, G. Palacios 14, Quitugua 12, Pelisamen 11, Mendioala 6, Peters 4, D. Palacios 1.

Scoring by quarters: 17-16, 35-35, 56-49, 84-68.

Second Game

PIC 92 – Sanciangco 28, Barbo 20, Babauta 12, William 12, Pepito 6, Yabut 6, Baculod 3, Jung 3, Danipog 2.

Fiesta 83 – Esdrelon 33, J. Ong 12, De la Torre 11, Usi 8, Carino 8, Galag 4, Salazar 2, Valdez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-14, 49-33, 65-67, 92-83.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
TBK's Melvin Capalad, center, drives against Bank of Guam's Dexter Mendiola, left, and Randy Pelisamen during their game in the Shirley's caging on Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

CNMI

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witness the games themselves. It is even bigger than the Olympics," Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan said.

This year's World Cup has 204 of the 2008 FIFA national teams going through qualifiers. The number matched the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics as the sports event with the most competing nations.

"Come June and for about a month, there will be World Cup Fever. It's like when Manny Pacquiao fights, people in the Philippines stop whatever they are doing to watch the bout. In World Cup, nations stop. Workers stay up for games and take leaves from work or call in sick to have time to watch matches," added Tan, who will be among the throngs of fans going to South Africa to watch the World Cup for the fourth time.

Tan's first time to watch World Cup was in 1994 when the United States hosted the 15th staging of the quadrennial event, the second was in 2002 in Japan (South Korea co-hosted the event), and third in Germany in 2006 and on each occasion, the experience was something beyond words.

"You go out there, seeing people wearing the same color of their home team, painting their faces and bodies, standing almost the entire game, chanting, singing, dancing, holding huge flags, and all other things you don't see in any sport or ordinary event," Tan said.

"It's a great place to be in and although not many of us in the CNMI can be there at the games, we can still be part of the World Cup Fever just by watching matches on TV and reading stories in newspapers," Tan said.

Teams, players to watch

When asked to pick the five teams, which he thought are the squads to beat in the 2010 World Cup, Tan selected defending champion Italy, No. 1-ranked Spain, No. 2 and five-time champion Brazil, No. 5-ranked Germany, and his favorite team England.

"But the U.S. national team could pull off a big surprise in the tournament, as since they hosted the 1994 World Cup, the federation was deeply committed in developing a very competitive team that can play well against the powerhouse in Europe," Tan said.

As for the pros suiting up for their respective national teams, Tan said Argentina's Lionel Messi, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, Brazil's Kaka (Ricardo Izecson dos Santos Leite), and England's Wayne Mark Rooney are marked men.

Messi plays for La Liga club of Barcelona, Ronaldo and Kaka are with Spanish club Real Madrid, and Rooney suits up for English Premier League club Manchester United.

Pride of EAFF

Of the four Asian Football Confederations teams that qualified for the 2010 World Cup, three were from East Asian Football Federation—Japan, South Korea, and North Korea.

Australia is the forth team in AFC to made it to the elite list.

"As member of the EAFF family, NMIFA is proud that three of our members are joining this year's World Cup," Tan said.

The NMIFA president added South Korea has the best chance to give AFC/EAFF its best finish in the tournament.

"South Korea made it to the Final Four in 2002. For other AFC/EAFF teams, it will already be a great achievement to make if they make it to the second round," said Tan, adding the player to watch for South Korea is Ji-Sung Park.

Park is the captain of the South Korean squad and plays midfield for Manchester United.

Inspiration

Tan said a CNMI Team will never make it to the World Cup, but having a player from the Commonwealth playing in the prestigious event is still possible.

"This is possible if our players, especially the young ones, will look up to the players in the World Cup as their inspiration," Tan said.

"Our players must aspire to become great players. When they do, they can avail of scholarship in college, then if they continue to perform well, they can turn pro, and be considered to suit up for the U.S. national team," the NMIFA head added.

Tan said players in the World Cup were once students and with proper training, exposure, and knowledgeable coaches helping them out, they became one of the best players in the world.

"We, in NMIFA, will try our best to tap young talents, train them, help them become good players, and look for opportunities that will make them reach the level of play of our counterparts in the region," Tan said.

RANGERS

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Kaipat, having two strikeouts against two balls, swung and missed his target.

The loss dropped the Brewers to a 1-2 record, as they failed to make a follow-up on their 4-1 triumph over the Falcons last Friday.

Shortstop Jess Mesa hit 4-for-4 at bat for the Brewers, blasting a two-run single that put the team in the scoreboard at the top of the sixth innining.

Neither team scored in the first five innings before Mesa's single drove Benavente and Sablan home. Mesa later reached home plate on Ben Cabrera's single, while designated hitter Highness Ananuma made it a 4-0 count for the Brewers as his single brought Mabel Ngirngemelas home.

The Falcons' lone run was courtesy of Robert Bansil's sacrifice fly that drove Gerald Jones home at the bottom of the seventh inning.

RP CHAMP

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team's total time of 3:33:11.

It was Macasieb and Galang's first time to win in the relay, while Villafria gained his second championship. A Rezne Wong-led team won the last two editions of XTERRA Championship relay. Wong teamed up with biker Rene Calage and runner Matthew Mancao last year and clocked in at 3:29:18. In 2008, Wong also joined forces with Calage and had Villafria as runner.

Calage joined XTERRA for the third time, but he and teammates Mamiko Berger and Kai Staal posted only the third best time in the event at 4:07:18. Calage submitted 2:43:48 in the bike leg, while Berger completed the run part at 1:07:13. Staal was first out of the water, timing in at 15:10 to lead the team to a first-place finish in the mixed division.

Placing second overall and second too in the men's division was the team of Shogo Ando and Cesar Fortaleza. Ando did the swim (24:07) and run (1:17:20) legs and Fortaleza timed in at 2:16:19 for a combined time of 3:59:05.

Other finishers were the teams of Quan Dau, Derek Meir and Richard Alcantara (4:11:03); Bryce Daly, Kimiko Hasegawa, and Heartim Williams (4:12:02); Julia Lendavi and Ric Antonio (4:34:25); and Andrew Kimball and John Jenkins (5:30:04).

Tamiko Winkfield, Jackie Van Dam, and Amanda Allen were also entered in the relay, but failed to finish, as Van Dam crashed in the bike leg in one of the coral roads at Navy Hill.

The Top 3 placers in the relay and age group races were awarded with medals and other prizes during last Saturday's banquet at the Pacific Islands Club.

In the men's division, the top finishers in each age group were Nichols Connely (20-24), Geoff Suess (25 to 29), Masato Samata (30-34), Butch Sublemente (35-39), David Spelger (40-44), Tetsuya Sugimori (45-49), Toshiaki Watanabe (50-54), and G.L. Brown (65-69).

In the women's division, the first place finishers were Elaine Seasly (30-34), Dana Suess (35-39), Eri Arai (40-44), and Caroline Colonna (45-49).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	42	24	.636	—
Toronto	32	33	.492	9 1/2
New York	24	43	.358	18 1/2
Philadelphia	23	44	.343	19 1/2
New Jersey	7	59	.106	35

Southeast Division

Orlando	47	21	.691	—
Atlanta	42	23	.646	3 1/2
Charlotte	34	31	.523	11 1/2
Miami	35	32	.522	11 1/2
Washington	21	44	.323	24 1/2

Central Division

x-Cleveland	52	15	.776	
Milwaukee	36	29	.554	15
Chicago	31	34	.477	20
Detroit	23	44	.343	29
Indiana	21	45	.318	30Ω

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	45	22	.672	—
San Antonio	39	25	.609	4 1/2
Houston	34	31	.523	10
Memphis	35	32	.522	10
New Orleans	33	35	.485	12 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	45	22	.672	—
Utah	43	24	.642	2
Oklahoma City	41	24	.631	3
Portland	41	28	.594	5
Minnesota	14	53	.209	31

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	49	18	.731	—
Phoenix	41	26	.612	8
L.A. Clippers	25	43	.368	24 1/2
Sacramento	23	44	.343	26
Golden State	18	48	.273	30 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	65	657	511	1943	29.9
Durant, OKC	65	632	572	1934	29.8
Anthony, DEN	53	524	419	1512	28.5
Bryant, LAL	61	618	373	1687	27.7
Wade, MIA	63	586	437	1671	26.5
Ellis, GOL	54	539	248	1383	25.6
Nowitzki, DAL	66	588	442	1650	25.0
Bosh, TOR	58	499	394	1400	24.1
Stoudemire, PHX	67	561	380	1503	22.4
Roy, POR	54	421	296	1205	22.3
Johnson, ATL	65	548	192	1396	21.5
Jackson, CHA	65	487	278	1354	20.8
Randolph, MEM	66	539	279	1368	20.7
Rose, CHI	64	548	201	1303	20.4
Evans, SAC	62	462	301	1256	20.3
Maggette, GOL	55	361	379	1112	20.2
Lee, NYK	66	560	210	1330	20.2
Billups, DEN	57	325	367	1147	20.1
Gay, MEM	65	496	247	1294	19.9
Brooks, HOU	64	455	197	1267	19.8

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Howard, ORL	429	702	.611
Perkins, BOS	269	441	.610
Hilario, DEN	348	584	.596
Gasol, MEM	372	638	.583
Bynum, LAL	373	658	.567
O'Neal, CLE	262	463	.566
Millsap, UTA	308	555	.555
Horford, ATL	373	673	.554
Lee, NYK	560	1013	.553
Boozer, UTA	491	893	.550

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	68	238	661	899	13.2
Randolph, MEM	66	273	506	779	11.8
Lee, NYK	66	178	593	771	11.7
Camby, POR	62	206	503	709	11.4
Boozer, UTA	63	144	566	710	11.3
Bosh, TOR	58	170	477	647	11.2
Bogut, MIL	59	182	434	616	10.4
Wallace, CHA	62	127	520	647	10.4
Duncan, SAN	61	192	444	636	10.4
Haywood, DAL	62	242	376	618	10.0

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, NOR	38	424	11.2
Nash, PHX	66	736	11.2
Williams, UTA	60	619	10.3
Rondo, BOS	64	624	9.8
Kidd, DAL	65	607	9.3
James, CLE	65	554	8.5
Westbrook, OKC	65	518	8.0
Davis, LAC	65	510	7.8
Harris, NJN	50	335	6.7
Wade, MIA	63	412	6.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS

MBI	7	0
Aqua Resort	5	1
World Resort	5	1
Fiesta Resort	5	2
Shirley's	4	2
Pacific Islands Club	4	2
AON/NJ Plus	3	3
Mobil	2	3
TBK	3	3
McGraw-Hill	2	3
Pepsi	1	3
Bank of Guam	1	4
Cell Pro	0	5
Docomo/SGH	0	5
Hard Rock	0	5

Bike leg in 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championship

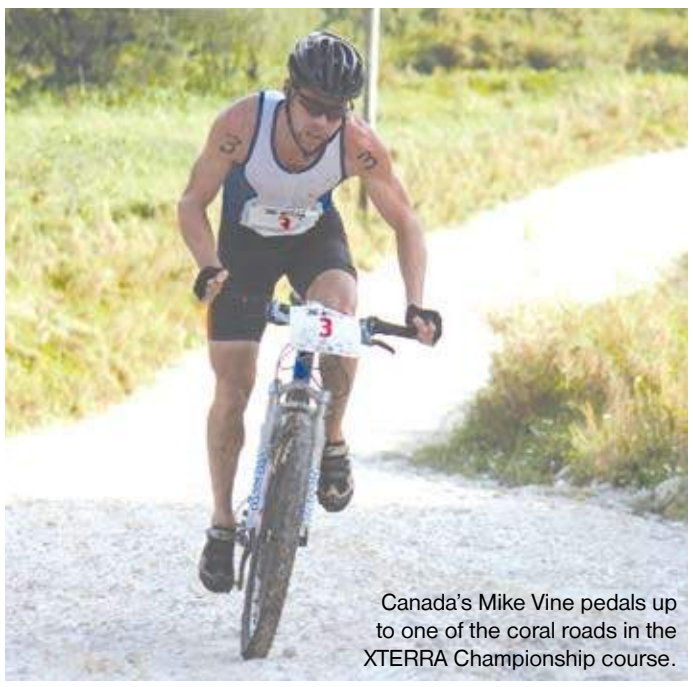
PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Switzerland's Renata Bucher makes her way up to Mt. Tapochao.

Australia's Tim Whitburn runs his bike out of the swim-bike transition area in last Saturday's 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

United Kingdom's Michael Hiscott rides his bike again after crashing.

United Kingdom's Emma Ruth Smith emerges from a muddy trail.


Canada's Mike Vine pedals up to one of the coral roads in the XTERRA Championship course.

Japanese Takahiro Ogasawara puts his helmet in preparation for the 30-kilometer bike race.

American pro Shonny Vanlandingham passes one of the trail course on Mt. Tapochao.

After crashing at Navy Hiill, Australia's Jason Chalker soldiers on, negotiating another treacherous road.

Eventual men's champion Sam Gardner of the United Kingdom climbs up to Mt. Tapochao.

A group of riders climb their way up to Mt. Tapochao.

Glamour boy Beckham to miss World Cup after injury

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

85 days to go before SOUTH AFRICA 2010 FIFA WORLD CUP

CNMI wants in on World Cup fever

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Want to be part of something big and historic?

Watch the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the first to be held in an African nation, and witness 32 countries, including host South Africa, slug it out for the coveted trophy made from 18-carat solid gold and designed by Italian artist Silvio Gazzaniga.

The 19th edition of the premier international football tournament will run from June 11 to July 11 in 10 different venues in South Africa.

"World Cup is the most watched single event in the world with billions glued on TV and hundreds of thousands people going to various stadiums to

See CNMI on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
NMIFA president Jerry Tan, fourth from left, and his brother Raymond, fifth from left, join fans of Team Italy during the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

2010 WORLD CUP BY THE NUMBERS

1 First time that an African nation will host World Cup

19 The number of times World Cup will be staged since the inaugural event in 1930 in Uruguay

32 Competing nations

10 Venues for 2010 World Cup games

6 Number of confederations represented in the 2010 World Cup

13 The most qualifiers in one confederation (Union of European Football Associations)

94,700 Capacity of Soccer City in Johannesburg, the biggest among the 10 venues

11 The start date (June 11) and closing (July 11) of 2010 World Cup; the number of colors in the 2010 World Cup Ball: Jabulani and represents the number of players in each team.

$420M Total prize money

$1M Paid to each participating nation

$8M Paid to teams exiting group stage

$9M Paid to Round of16 qualifiers

$18M Paid to quarterfinalists

$20M Paid to semifinalists

$24M Paid to runner-up

$30M Paid to champion

$1,369 FIFA paid per day/per player to pro clubs, which have players in the World Cup

$35M plus FIFA will pay to all pro clubs with in the World Cup

June 16, 1994 Birth date of Zakumi, the 2010 FIFA World Cup mascot

Rangers blank Brewers, 5-0

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Rangers' Pete Tomokane waits for the pitch in their game against the D-9ers during the opening of the Saipan Major League last month at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The St. Michael Rangers played solid defense Monday night en route to a 5-0 shutout win over the Brewers in the 2010 Saipan Major League baseball competition at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

No Brewers runner went past second base against the Rangers defense, allowing the latter to notch their third win in as many matches.

Starting pitcher Kelvin Kapileo pitched seven innings and struck out five. He allowed four hits and walked three in an error-free performance on the mound. Closer Franco Flores got the job done, striking out four in the last two innings and allowing only one hit.

On offense, the defending champion Rangers scored three runs off the Brewers' errors. Tyrone Omar stole bases twice at the bottom of first inning and gave the Rangers their first run in the game. Roy Celis and Jesus also scored a run apiece in the fifth inning, while catcher Pat Alepuyo made it home in the sixth, and left fielder Clifton Sillil gave the Rangers their fifth run in the eighth inning.

The Rangers started the game with Kapileo striking out Brewers' first two batters. It was a tough night for the Brewers from thereon.

At the top of the ninth, the Brewers must score at least five runs to extend the game. Mark Flores led off for the Brewers, but Franco Flores struck him out. Ron Benavente was next at bat and flied out, while third batter Manny Sablan singled.

The game then ended when Byron

See RANGERS on Page 26

RP champ paces team to XTERRA relay win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three-time Philippine national triathlon champion Arland Macasieb decided to do only the swim split in the 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championship and made the right choice, as he and his two Saipan-based teammates ruled the relay event of the Championship course.

Macasieb, who finished ninth in the pro division last year, teamed up with Mario Galang and Ronald Villafria to beat six other teams in the relay division.

The New Jersey-based Macasieb completed the 1.5-kilometer swim in 18 minutes and 53 seconds (10th best among 70 swimmers). Galang still finished the 30-km bike race in 2:01:12 (23rd out of 68 bikers) despite a crash and Villafria timed in at 1:11:57 (20th best out of 69 runners) in the 12-km run for the

See RP CHAMP on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, Arland Macasieb, Mario Galang, and Ronald Villafria receive their first place medals during the awards ceremony for the 2010 World XTERRA Saipan Championship at the Pacific Islands Club.